


James Arness ■ *Murder on the Visa Express* ■ *Airline Security*

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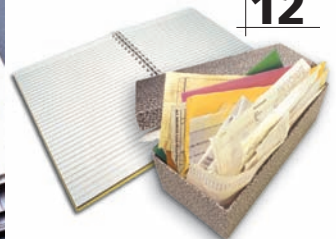
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COVER: Marines of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit train their eyes on a target during a live-fire drill aboard the USS Belleau Wood. *James V. Carroll*



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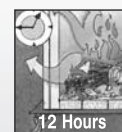
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Powerful photo

If awards were available for magazine covers, the November



issue would receive first place. The love expressed by the young naval officer returning from a long tour of duty and his daughter tells

it all. It's been a long time since this World War II veteran has been so moved by a picture.

— Charles Simpson Jr., Canandaigua, N.Y.

Atomic veterans

James V. Carroll's "Mystery Maladies" (November) is a fine article. We need more like it. He discussed how difficult it has been for Vietnam War and Gulf War veterans to prove their war-related illnesses. This seems to be true for most veterans.

Carroll left out the atomic veteran of the Cold War. We face an impossible task in proving that our health problems are linked to ionizing radiation. The atomic veteran is fast becoming forgotten in Washington. Now, with the loss of Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., the greatest ally of the atomic veteran is gone. This is something Carroll could take an interest in.

— Charles Bettis, Oklahoma City

Devastating loss

I was profoundly moved by Jim Moore's article "The Boys of Praha" (November), about the deaths of nine young men from one tiny Texas town during World War II. It brought back vivid memories of my youth in a small community in eastern North Dakota during those dark years. Pictures of local men killed in hostile action were prominently shown in the local theater. While my memory has dimmed somewhat over the years, I seem to recall at least 12 to 15 such pictures by war's end, a devastating loss to a small farming community.

Moore's piece, particularly fitting during the month of Veterans Day, was a reminder of the supreme sacrifice made by so

many men and women to enable the rest of us to continue enjoying the freedoms we cherish.

— Don K. Johnson, Fargo, N.D.

No respect

The story by Jim Moore is an insult to all veterans, especially to the veterans of Praha, Texas. It left me with the feeling that the author thinks the service of World War II veterans was a total waste. If it wasn't for veterans like the ones from Praha, we would all be living under Nazism. We all owe those veterans more respect than you have shown them. *The American Legion Magazine* needs a whole new staff. Stop insulting veterans with this kind of trash.

— Thomas O'Connor, Falmouth, Maine

Forgotten heroes

"The Boys of Praha" is one of the best tributes you have ever published about the sacrifices made to assure the freedoms we have as Americans. It's a national shame that these veterans are, like hundreds of others, mostly forgotten. America needs a national hall of heroes that could serve as a memorial and an educational center, so that in the future all citizens would have access to information about such heroes as the boys of Praha. The American Legion could well be the catalyst to launch such a project. Can we do anything less? Indianapolis, at the "cross-

roads of America," would be an ideal site for such a center.

— Robert E. Duis, Joshua, Texas

Help ourselves

After reading the article "America the Generous" (November) I couldn't help but think about the naturalized citizens who are often overlooked. We've all read stories about Americans who are down and out and many veterans who have to live on the streets. Look at today's seniors who are faced with medical costs that wipe out their retirement funds. They have no place to turn. Look at our active-duty comrades who live in poverty. Many baby boomers have lost a large percentage of their retirements due to a poor economy yet are still called upon to tighten their belts more to help those abroad and those who come to our land. Who will be there for us?

— James F. Wadford, Bartlett, Ill.

Enough responsibility

In regard to "Arming Commercial Pilots" (Big Issues, November), I see it as simple. Seal the cockpit airtight. Have a switch in the cockpit that will release sleeping gas into the rest of the aircraft. Land the plane. Have the proper authorities deal with the people. I'm sure some pilots may not want to be armed and some may not be capable. Don't they have enough responsibility flying the plane?

— Nick D'Annunzio, Clifton Heights, Pa.

Not a solution

It is not often I read an article under a senator's name and wonder if the senator actually read the article. Was the article intentionally edited to appear illogical? Do senators believe emotions, not facts, carry an argument?

I'm referring to the opposing view of Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., on the issue of arming commercial pilots. He says El Al cockpit doors are never opened in flight. Do El Al planes have restrooms and kitchen facilities in the cockpit? I think not. El Al security personnel do extensive investigation, profiling and a search of potential passengers before they are allowed to board the plane. El Al security per-

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sonnel do not hesitate to prevent suspicious people from boarding. I believe this is why no one has hijacked an El Al plane in 30 years.

In Hollings' article, we are asked to imagine terrorists trying to attack a plane with an armed pilot. "A flight attendant screams, 'Open the door! He's strangling me!' The pilot, feeling responsible to help, might get off a shot but would instantly have a broken neck." I fail to see the logic behind a pilot getting off a shot and then instantly having a broken neck. With a terrorist coming through a cockpit door, a reasonably proficient pilot would be unlikely to miss such a target, since it is both at short range and at a relatively fixed position.

I am not opposed to locking cockpit doors, but locking doors would not prevent all terrorists' actions. Proper ground security, adequate investigation, profiling and search of potential passengers and yes, arming pilots, would minimize hijackings.

— Carl Fedako, Bloomsburg, Pa.

Stand up for vets

The issue of concurrent receipt has me perplexed. Here we go again, boondoggled by our elected legislators. While they give the appearance of being sincere, are they really? The conferees make their decision look difficult, when it could have been resolved in an hour session if so desired.

Here we are on the verge of sending our military into harm's way again, and the people in power are balking at showing true support for our country's retired, disabled veterans. At the same time, they will jump at the chance to assist illegal aliens or another country's retired military officers. They even send aid to countries we may face in conflict.

It is a shame that they themselves haven't had to spend days in a fox-hole or jump from a plane or go to sea for six months, all in a time of conflict and all the time knowing they could retire and get out of it. It's called duty and patriotism. That's why we didn't retire and quit. Our jobs weren't done yet.

It's time our elected officials

stand up for those who have given them the opportunity to be leaders of the greatest nation on earth.

— T.L. Davis, Morgantown, Ky.

Dropped the ball

As a longtime Legion member, I cringed when I read the November magazine. I had just reviewed our Web site, where I saw an urgency in spreading the word on attempting to correct the inequities in the current law for disabled veterans. But there was nothing in our national magazine during this critical election time. I know we've had articles before, but this was a great chance to keep our concerns before Congress. I hope we don't drop the ball again. My local congressman has often said that if they don't hear about it, "it ain't a problem."

— Jerry Kane, Lake Wales, Fla.

Limitless powers

While Susan Katz Keating's article on the International Criminal Court ("Unauthorized Authority," October) was excellent, it failed to mention that the court claims jurisdiction over private American citizens for actions within our own country. As Keating points out, the powers of the court are almost limitless and could be construed in such a way as to forbid even criticizing the court. I have thoroughly gone through the Web site and found the founding statute to be even more mischievous than she said.

As for congressional action, I would suggest legislation making it illegal for the court to try any American, with a penalty of 20 years imprisonment for any judge, prosecutor, clerk, bailiff or other staff member who participates in such a trial.

— Robert C. Whitten, Cupertino, Calif.

Insider threat

Possible solutions to "The Accounting Apocalypse" (October) include:

■ A sentence based on the amount stolen. In Montana I believe grand larceny is \$50 with a possible two-year sentence, or 21,024 minutes per dollar. For \$1 million, that would be 21,024,000 minutes, or 40,000 years

at the same rate per dollar.

■ The sentence would be served in now-vacant military bases rather than posh, white-collar prisons.

■ The accountant and auditor would serve the same sentence.

■ Both the accountant and auditor alike would have to write texts on how to "cook" the books. CPAs and auditors alike would have read these books and pass a test similar to the CPA test, but in addition thereto.

Some might call this cruel and unusual punishment, but it seems to me what has happened to Enron, WorldCom and Tyco employees and retirees is much worse. We reacted to Dec. 7, 1941, and Sept. 11, 2001. I think we need to react just as strongly to the present insider threat of the clever.

— Bob Kern, Bozeman, Mont.

Grateful to Legion

I would like to say thank you. I officially retire from the Air Force Jan. 1, and I've been informed that I have already been rated 50 percent by VA. This may be pushed higher due to two other claims I have yet to turn in. Between the Legion's Web site and the armed forces, I have been kept up to date on all information pertaining to my future.

I'm a member of the Air Force Sergeant Association, The American Legion and VFW. I also plan to join the DAV, but the Legion's Web site is by far the most vocal. Comparing the Web sites tells me how committed you are to fighting for our needs.

My father is a Marine from the Korean War era, county VA superintendent and a member of all three organizations. I know the importance of membership, but from what I've seen – if I had to choose based on what I've read on the Web site – the Legion is by far the leader. Stick to your guns and don't let up.

— Michael T. Makowicz, Oklahoma City

Correction: In "Roster for a New Legion Year" (November), Missouri should have been listed as a member of the Central Region, represented by National Vice Commander Roy Kirkham.

'Primary motive for living'



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The American Legion was in its infancy when our members took the U.S. government to task over inadequate veterans' health care. In 1920, little more than a year after the organization was founded, the problem was known as "warehousing." Thousands of young men who were sick, disabled or insane following the first world war had been swept under the rug of society into sanitariums, poorhouses, state hospitals and even jails, where their diseases and psychological conditions could be isolated and dismissed.

It was a cruel outrage. These men, who fought courageously through mustard gas, barbed wire and machine-gun fire in the smoky trenches and forests of Europe, came home to suffer their nightmares alone, in crowded, understaffed Old Soldiers Homes while federal per-diem payments and disability checks were mishandled, if handled at all.

The American Legion owes its existence to such injustices.

Little mattered more in the early years of this organization than solving the problem of veteran warehousing. "If we don't do but one piece of work this year, and we do that well, we have justified our existence," National Commander F.W. Galbraith told commanders and adjutants in a meeting at National Headquarters.

Galbraith asked Legionnaires to go forth, in person, to the facilities themselves and assess conditions, interview patients and return with a report "that will shake the foundations of the Congress of the United States." He wanted unabridged, personal accounts from people whose postwar care was relegated to the dustbin of unfulfilled government promises. Real faces, real names and real stories of mistreatment. The Legion was their only hope.

Examples of mistreatment were widespread. Galbraith told of a hospital where tubercular combat veterans with high fevers were actually punished for failing to clean lavatories or handle other men's sputum cups. Such testimonies needed to be exposed, Galbraith said. "We dig (such stories) up every day," he said. "... The trouble is that these men in the hospitals are 'cases.' They are represented by so many pieces of paper in some bureau in Washington. We want to humanize the whole thing and say, 'Here is Jim Smith's case, my friend. What do you propose to do about him?' That is the thing that we want

to do, and we can do it. It is our primary motive for living."

It was a bold message and an ambitious challenge, one that ultimately led to the consolidation of three inefficient veterans' agencies into one Veterans Bureau and a multimillion-dollar budget for hospitals.

Now, nearly 83 years later, The American Legion's primary motive remains the same. And it's time for another bold message.

We Are Not Numbers. Today's problem – which bears alarming resemblance to veteran warehousing after World War I – is the VA patient "backlog."

More than 300,000 qualified veterans are waiting six months or longer between setting appointments and actually seeing VA doctors. Some have died waiting. Those who hold out are packed into waiting rooms for hours on end because VA health-care facilities are woefully underfunded and understaffed.

Demand, meanwhile, continues to grow. Another 600,000 are expected to enroll in the system this year, creating a total patient load of nearly 5 million, a 31-percent increase over last year's projections. This problem is not going away under its own power.

The solution is mandatory funding for VA health care, based on the actual average cost of care for each veteran, with regular indexing for inflation, a budget based on reality rather than rations. This formula was introduced last year in the form of the Veterans Health Care Funding Act of 2002. In order for this bipartisan legislation to receive the attention it deserves, we must submit into evidence, as they did so long ago, the testimonies of veterans whose lives are imperiled by the current funding formula.

Nearly two months ago, every American Legion post was mailed a survey packet titled "I Am Not a Number." Any veteran, regardless of Legion affiliation, who is waiting too long for a primary-care appointment needs to complete the survey and provide a personal testimonial so I can hand-deliver our message on Capitol Hill in March. We must change perceptions in Washington. To do that, we must show the collateral damage of an underfunded system. We must show them – veteran after veteran after veteran – that lives are at stake. And, as it was for Legionnaires who fought to end warehousing so long ago, helping veterans get the care they earned and deserve is "our primary motive for living."

"I AM NOT A NUMBER"

VETERAN SURVEY FORM

Name	<i>Attach Photo Here (If Available)</i>
Address	
Telephone Number	
Email Address	
Military Experience <i>(Branch, Years)</i>	
American Legion Post Number <i>(if any)</i> State	
VA Facility	
Surveyor Information <i>(if any)</i> Name Phone Number	

1. How long have you been waiting (or did you wait) for your first primary-care appointment?

2. What is the longest time you have waited to see your doctor after checking into a VA clinic for a scheduled appointment?

3. Have you ever had an appointment rescheduled by a VA facility? *(circle one)* Yes No

If so, how many times?

Approximately how much time elapsed between your original appointment date and the rescheduled date?

4. Have you ever been denied long-term health care by VA?

5. On a scale of 1-10, 10 being highest, how would you rate your satisfaction with the quality of health care you have received from your VA health-care provider?

*The American Legion stands ready to assist all veterans in developing and submitting their claims to the VA with a full cadre of service officers nationwide.
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On the space provided on the back of this form, describe your experience with VA medical care, and sign the Consent, Release and Hold Harmless Agreement on each page used.

(over)

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

I, _____, THE UNDERSIGNED, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION'S POSSIBLE USE OF MY PHOTOGRAPH AND THE INFORMATION SUPPLIED ON THIS FORM TO ASSIST IN THE EFFORT TO PERSONALIZE THE DELIVERY OF VETERANS' SERVICES AND HEALTH CARE, HEREBY GRANT PERMISSION, SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZE AND REQUEST THE AMERICAN LEGION TO USE MY PHOTOGRAPH AND ANY OF THE INFORMATION SUPPLIED ON THIS FORM IN ANY FASHION, IN ANY MEDIUM OF COMMUNICATION WHATSOEVER, TO ACCOMPLISH THE GOAL OF PERSONALIZING VETERANS' ISSUES FOR THE U. S., STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE PEOPLE.

I AM SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT FREELY AND WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF MY RIGHTS.

Please send completed, signed survey to:

"I Am Not a Number," c/o Matt Grills, American Legion National Headquarters, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206

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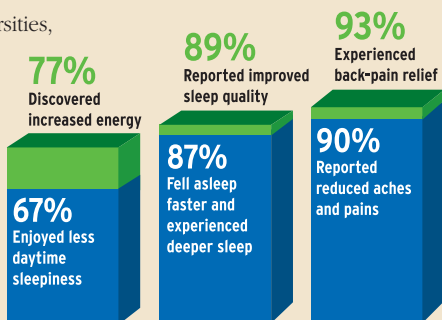


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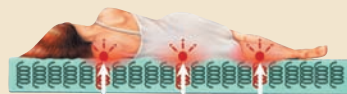
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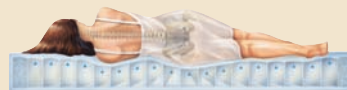
-Dr. David Kolbaba, Chiropractic Physician

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-S. O'Brien, California



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U.S. support of condom use?

SUPPORT

Rep. Lynn Woolsey
D-Calif.



Since 1981, AIDS has killed more than 20 million people. Today, more than 40 million worldwide live with the virus that causes AIDS, and another 45 million will be infected by 2010 if realistic prevention is not promoted. Should the federal government promote condoms to fight AIDS? In a word, "Yes."

"Condoms, when used correctly and consistently, are effective for preventing HIV infection in women and men," according to a June 2000 review by the World Health Organization, the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control.

It is inconceivable that we wouldn't do everything possible to protect our children from AIDS.

Condoms reduce the infection rate of AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections. They save lives and protect from unwanted pregnancy. Young people need this information, but the Bush administration doesn't want them to have it. We must prepare

our children for their future by fully educating them about protecting their health and preventing unwanted pregnancy. "Abstinence-only" education is a shortsighted approach that only works halfway.

Promoting the use of condoms doesn't give our kids license to engage in promiscuous behavior. It helps kids prepare for a responsible adult lifestyle.

Some critics are more concerned about the harmful influences of an HIV-infected Muppet on "Sesame Street" than they are about protecting our children from this fatal disease. It's just common sense.

We have a moral responsibility to put good policy ahead of bad politics. It is inconceivable that we wouldn't do everything possible to protect our children from AIDS.

By refusing to teach children how to protect themselves from disease and unwanted pregnancy, the Bush administration is doing a great harm by taking away access to information that allows individuals to make informed decisions about their reproductive health, emotional and physical security and economic future.

The bottom line is that using condoms saves lives. Should the federal government promote measures to save lives? Absolutely.

Rep. Dave Weldon
R-Fla.

OPPOSE



In the early 1980s, I was stationed at the Letterman Army Medical Center in San Francisco for a three-year internship and residency in internal medicine. At that time, I began treating numerous young men who were suffering from symptoms of a mysterious disease that would later be called AIDS. No cure or vaccine has been found for AIDS, and the annual rate on new HIV infections has not declined in more than a decade. AIDS largely results from sexual activity with an infected individual. Because the majority of AIDS cases are caused by risky sexual behavior, the predominant means of reducing infection has been the use of condoms.

This approach has failed because it denies the most fundamental principle of public health: primary prevention. Primary prevention helps uninfected individuals avoid behaviors that could compromise life and health. Multiple partners increase the likelihood of contracting a sexually transmitted disease, including HIV/AIDS. The earlier the onset of sexual activity, the more sexual partners an individual will have. Therefore, we should urge individuals who are sexually abstinent to remain abstinent.

Condoms offer only a small measure of risk reduction because their effectiveness is dependent on consistent and correct use 100 percent of the time. Yet even when used correctly, the risk is not eliminated. The Jan. 29, 2000, issue of the medical journal *Lancet* reports that promoting the use of condoms may increase risk of HIV infection. This is because condoms can provide a false sense of security about promiscuity.

Since 1988, the federal government has attempted to prevent the spread of HIV specifically by encouraging students to use condoms. Not only are rates of

HIV/AIDS infection continuing to increase, but the rate of STD infection is skyrocketing. As a medical doctor and a policy-maker, I seek the most effective means to protect people's lives and save their health. Condoms are not the primary means to achieve this objective.

YOUR OPINIONS COUNT

Senators and representatives are interested in constituent viewpoints. You may express your views in writing at the following addresses:

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Washington, DC 20510
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It's like a whole other country.

The most thoughtful memo you can write

*Put heirs at ease
by letting them
know where
everything
is located.*

BY ALDEN TODD

Do you want to leave your loved ones plagued by such questions as, "Where did Dad leave his checkbook?" "Did he have more than one bank account?" "What did he owe on his car?" "Did he own any life insurance?" "Did he buy that lot he often spoke about?"

Such questions often face survivors after the funeral is over and the will has been read. Unanswered questions can cause many a headache, days of inquiry and searching, and long nights of doubting. All this need not happen to your family. They deserve better.

The most thoughtful memo you can write covers matters not usually spelled out in a will. Such a memo is designed to put heirs at ease by letting them know where everything is, along with names, addresses and phone numbers to help them pick up the pieces. It is a memo that can be revised as conditions change. Give everyone a copy so they have it before the day of need.

Here are the most important items to include:

■ **Banks.** Provide the name of your bank, account number, and location of checkbook and banking records. Also include the number of your safe-deposit box and location of the key. If you have no box, say so.

■ **Life insurance.** If relevant, list the name of the company, policy number, location of insurance documents and how to reach the contact person. If you have no life insurance, say so.

■ **Pension.** List the name of pension sources, military and civilian, as well as the location of relevant documents and how to reach the contact person.

■ **Military records and memos.** Reveal the location of discharge papers, service records, citations and decorations.

■ **Real estate.** List your home and other holdings with the mortgage status of each, how to reach the mortgage lender and the locations of relevant documents.

■ **Social Security.** Include your Social Security number. Ask your family to notify the Social Security office of your death and to ask about lump-sum death benefits or other possible survivor benefits.

■ **Investments.** List your investment holdings, the locations of investment documents and how to reach investment counselors.

■ **Motor vehicle.** Provide location of title. If the vehicle is financed,

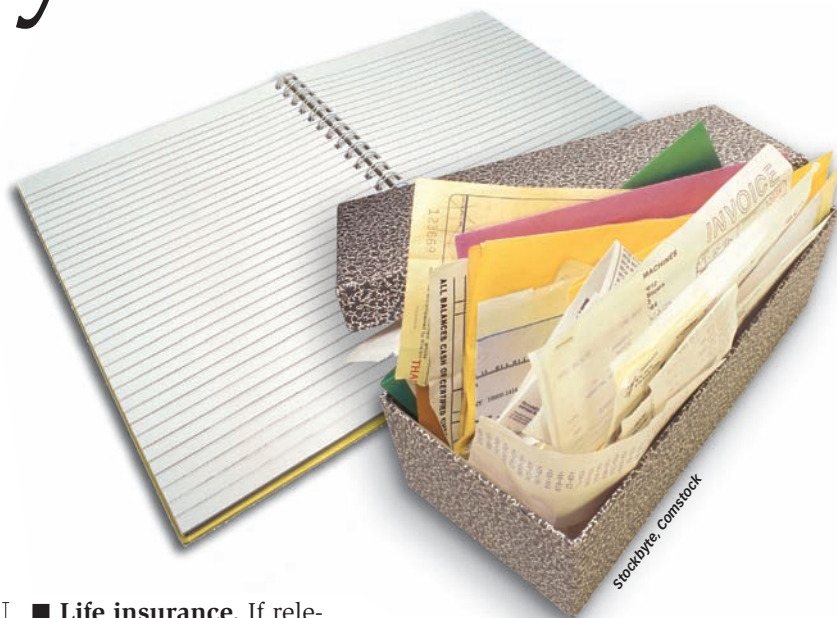
list the location of loan documents and status of the payments.

■ **Income taxes and accountant.** Provide the name and address of your tax accountant, if relevant, and the location of tax records current and past.

This is some of the most pertinent information to include in a thoughtful memo. Additional information can be added to the list, such as the existence of a prepaid burial policy or funeral details, including a list of possible pallbearers. Don't neglect to offer negative statements to save your family hours of fruitless inquiry, such as: no other life insurance policy, no other motor vehicle, no credit card or installment debt.

Your family may one day have to rely on this memo and will bless your memory for having made their lives easier during a difficult time. Sit down and begin your memo today. □

Alden Todd is a writer who resides in Anchorage, Alaska.



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Are we flying safer skies?



Gaping security holes remain in post-Sept. 11 air travel.

BY DONALD LAMBRO

The ease with which 19 terrorists seized control of four commercial jetliners and perpetrated their destruction showed how penetrable airline security had become prior to Sept. 11, 2001. Fifteen months later, gaping holes remain in the industry's passenger-protection system.

In the aftermath of the attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people, Congress and the Bush administration responded by shoring up crippled airline finances, federalizing baggage screeners and security personnel, installing new bomb-detection machines to screen luggage and cargo, strengthening cockpit doors, placing armed air marshals

on as many flights as possible and creating the federal Transportation Security Administration.

When the system is in place, an inspector general's report says it will employ an estimated 72,000 workers and cost a staggering \$30 billion to \$40 billion. The new federal agency alone will cost \$4 billion to \$5 billion a year, with the airlines kicking in about \$1 billion.

Many deadlines Congress set for the new system have either gone unmet or have been extended. With 429 airports in the country and up to 35,000 flights per day, the sheer enormity and cost of the task have been much larger than lawmakers and government executives ever imagined. "We've got sticker shock," one federal official said.

Among the problems:

■ The government set Nov. 19, 2002, as the deadline for a federalized, trained, English-speaking baggage-screening workforce at most airports, though some may opt for independent contractors under federal supervision.

Congress envisioned about 30,000 people to fill that role, but according to a House aviation subcommittee member, it "looks like it will be closer to 70,000 people when baggage cargo screeners are included." The deadline is now extended much further than expected.

■ Congress wanted to have bomb-detection equipment installed by the end of the year to screen checked baggage and other cargo, but that didn't happen because only two companies make the necessary equipment. Some 2,000 machines would have been needed to make the year-end deadline at a prohibitive cost of nearly \$2 million each.

Many airport facilities do not have the space or structural support to easily install and house the huge detection machines. No funding mechanism exists to pay the hundreds of millions it is expected to cost to rebuild airports to make room for the equipment, government sources say.

"When you only have two companies that produce the equipment and one has equipment that doesn't work that well and the most

equipment that either company produces in a month is 14 units, and you need 2,000, the math doesn't work," said Rep. John Mica, R-Fla., chairman of the House Transportation Committee's aviation subcommittee.

■ The Transportation Security Administration that is in charge of all the new federal security resources, procedures and rule-making also has run into turbulence after a shaky start last February.

Start-up Woes. John W. Magaw, a 67-year-old former Secret Service chief, was put in charge of TSA, with the impossible task of staffing the multibillion-dollar agency and getting it up and running in a few months. Six months later he was fired by Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta, who was displeased with the direction Magaw was taking the agency and the lethargic way he responded to a three-fatality rampage July 4 by a lone gunman at the El Al ticket counter in the Los Angeles International Airport.

Airport managers around the country complained that TSA gave them no clear directions and that communications were poor to nonexistent. Others saw an agency being filled with law-enforcement personnel who lacked the management skills to implement a whole new security apparatus from the ground up. Hiring and training new screeners was slow. Passenger screening was slower. Reports of the elderly and infirm and other unlikely suspects being searched from head to foot grew more common.

Magaw was out of a job two weeks after the July 4 shooting and in his place Mineta chose retired Adm. James M. Loy, a savvy former commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, who is skillful both in his dealings with Congress and the airline industry. Loy dramatically changed the agency's image, reaching out to the pilots and quickly making the rounds of the major airports in a whirlwind tour that measurably improved relations between TSA officials and airport managers. The hiring of screeners significantly accelerated.

With 429 airports in the country and up to 35,000 flights per day, the sheer enormity and cost of the task have been much larger than lawmakers and government executives ever imagined. "We've got sticker shock," one federal official said.

"There's absolutely no doubt that (flying) is quantum levels more secure than it was on 9/11," Loy told *The American Legion Magazine*. "The most dramatic improvements are where we have federalized the workforce" (of about 30,000 screeners and supervisors) and significantly improved the "quality level of who we're putting in there. We're spending about 100 hours of training on each and every one of those new federalized screeners. Before, the average third-party contract screener the airlines employed was probably getting somewhere between five and seven hours of training."

Loy said he was distraught by the Labor Day weekend news stories about weapons reporters smuggled past security checkpoints and says each case is thoroughly investigated, and corrective measures are taken. "We track it back to the screener (and) the supervisor, and deal as appropriately as we need to, either in terms of remedial training or, if necessary, to terminate the employment of the screener or supervisor."

While stories like the one about the woman who passed through several checkpoints with a .357 Magnum last summer re-

ceive full media attention, Loy says cases of security successes too often go unnoticed. "What doesn't get mentioned is that we have probably confiscated or intercepted more than 2,200,000 prohibited articles in the course of doing our work here since last February." Included in that number: more than 25,000 box-cutters, approximately 600 pistols and thousands of knives.

Still, he says, much remains to be done, especially in cargo baggage security and in security improvements in the rest of the transportation industry in shipping, bridges, tunnels and mass-transit systems.

Racing Against Time. New detection technology ultimately is expected to solve many security problems and reduce staffing costs, too, he said.

One high-tech challenge on Loy's to-do list is "the next generation of explosive-detection equipment. We're seeking \$100 million to develop that. That's a three-to-five-year window."

More immediate is the second-generation Computer-Assisted Passenger Prescreening System, a vast artificial-intelligence network that will turn the focus on passen-



Baggage and passengers stack up at Washington's Reagan National Airport as screeners employ new technology to search for dangerous materials. AP

gers instead of baggage. "That's going to be a quantum step forward, both in terms of security and in terms of customer service, because when we have that in place, we will pretty much be able

to do away with gate screening and the so-called hassle factor that comes along with that. We hope the system we invest in will be in the first quarter of 2003.”

The bureaucracy Congress created in the wake of Sept. 11 was not what Mica envisioned when lawmakers began searching for a better way to prevent another terrorist strike.

However, as it often does, Congress created a massive new agency to deal with the problem. “That has forced the Transportation Security Administration to spend its time hiring a huge federal workforce,” Mica said. “And that has hampered things, both in getting the new screening procedures in place, both for passengers and for checked baggage. So both are delayed, which is somewhat predictable.”

By fall 2002, Congress’ goal of making all cockpit doors impenetrable was unrealized. The doors have been temporarily reinforced with thick metal bars and tougher locks, but pilots say terrorists can easily break in with small explosives.

The deadline for the terrorist-proof doors in all airlines is April 9, 2003, but Al Aitken – an American Airlines pilot and activist in the Allied Pilots Association – thinks that goal cannot be achieved. “At this moment, with almost 1,000 aircraft in our fleet, we have a single aircraft with the new reinforced door,” says Aitken, a 20-year Marine fighter pilot. “United Airlines has a similar number of planes. So do some of the other airlines. We are talking about thousands of planes, and April is not that far away. It would not surprise me if we did not reach that deadline.”

The cost for most short-run, smaller jets will be about \$30,000 per door, but for large jets – say, the Boeing 747 – the price skyrockets to \$120,000 per door.

“If we have new doors, there is no guarantee that the terrorists



New time-consuming security checks have prompted airport officials across the country to advise passengers to arrive at the airport up to two hours early. AP

will not devise a method of getting through.” Aitken said. “They probably won’t break it down, and they probably won’t be able to get a key to open it, but that doesn’t mean they won’t be able to explode it off the hinges.”

In recent cases, airline passengers – including a group of newspaper reporters who wanted to test the security screening process – managed to get all types of weapons and bits and pieces of explosive devices past the screeners. In some cases they used lead-lined bags which are a no-no for obvious reasons. But they are getting through. “Now if that can happen, then bits and pieces of explosive devices could find their way through the security-screening process and into the hands of a trained team of fundamentalist extremists who then get on the plane and form an explosive charge that could be used to blow the brand-new and improved cockpit door off its door jam.”

Guns in the Cockpit. “There is no such thing as an unbreachable cockpit door and likely never will be,” Aitken said.

That’s why airline pilots lobbied Congress and the administration for the right to arm themselves to thwart any terrorists who might get through.

The administration was initially opposed to the idea, and many lawmakers were lukewarm at first.

But the House and Senate have given their OKs to arming pilots who volunteer for the program, and the administration appeared to soften its opposition as well. Loy has informed the pilots that he wants to work with them to develop a safe and effective program.

“The most important part of the armed-pilots program is the deterrent effect,” Aitken said. “If we have massive numbers of pilots who are armed, possibly as many as 85,000 out of almost 100,000

pilots in this country, then the terrorists would understand that there is a very low probability of them having any success with an attack similar to Sept. 11. And it’s the knowledge of the low probability that will keep them from trying that method. They will try something else, someplace else.”

Flying Safer Skies. Despite holes in the screening process and delays in other security measures, airline security is believed to be better and safer than it was before. “We’re much better off because there is a higher state of alert,” Mica said. “I would say it is safer now than before 9/11.”

Aitken agrees. “I flew with American Airlines for nearly 12 years prior to Sept. 11 and throughout that entire time I made the comment – and many of my colleagues said the same thing – that security is a joke,” he said. “Well, I can tell you that it is no longer a joke. It’s extremely serious business now, though there are still far too many mistakes being made. But from the standpoint that it is being taken far more seriously today, I would agree that we are safer today on our airlines than we were on Sept. 10.”

Moreover, new technology is being developed to make security screening of airline passengers and baggage more foolproof. Pre-approved smartcards with biometric technology will make it easier

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to distinguish those safe passengers from those who are not.

Still, airline pilots feel vulnerable and do not think they have the tools to protect themselves, the cockpit or their passengers. A video produced by the Committee for Armed Defense of the Cockpit shows four actors portraying terrorists who break down a standard cockpit door in 12 seconds. "I feel a little safer, but I still believe that something can happen and that it is just a matter of time," Aitken said. "I believe that terrorists are riding on our airplanes now, trying to figure out where our vulnerabilities are, in light of our heightened awareness, what and where our new procedures are, so they can thwart them."

The days of airline policies that called for cooperation with hijackers and the idea that it's best to just take them to where they want to go, as long as no one gets hurt, are over. "Those are not our procedures any longer," Aitken says. "The opposite of that is that we will oppose these people. The problem is that we have not been given any tools with which to oppose them."

If the terrorists who attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were to attempt the same thing today – with all the security in place now – would they be successful?

"That's a tough question," Loy says after a pause. "I'd prefer to think we have increased the security profile so dramatically that if there is – I'll call him a *smart terrorist* – out there, his perception is that he should go somewhere else," he said. "We have developed a deterrent perspective, given our efforts at the airports today, that would discourage them. A terrorist is always going to find a path of least resistance. My hope is that we have encouraged those guys, by our efforts, to go elsewhere." □

Donald Lambro is a Washington-based syndicated columnist and investigative reporter.

Article Design: King Doxsee

Flying: What Not to Bring



Items confiscated at security checkpoints at Los Angeles International Airport. AP

In the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, airline passengers were prohibited from transporting items that could only be considered dangerous under the most imaginative (and unlikely) scenarios. Since then, the Transportation Security Administration issued specific guidelines on items that will not be allowed through security checkpoints. Ironically, some of the most frequently seized items – nail clippers and nail files – are now permitted on board. Here is a list of some items the TSA deems too dangerous to bring on a plane:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ammunition | Mace |
| Automatic weapons | Martial arts devices |
| Axes | Meat cleavers |
| Baseball bats | Metal scissors with pointed tips |
| BB guns | Numchucks (nunchaku) |
| Billy clubs | Pellet guns |
| Blackjacks | Pen knives |
| Blasting caps | Pepper spray |
| Bows and arrows | Pistols |
| Box cutters | Plastic explosives |
| Brass knuckles | Pool cues |
| Bull whips | Portable power drills |
| Cattle prods | Portable power saws |
| Compressed air guns | Razor blades (not in a cartridge) |
| Corkscrews | Religious knives |
| Cricket bats | Replica weapons |
| Crow bars | Revolvers |
| Disabling chemicals or gases | Rifles |
| Dynamite | Road flares |
| Fire extinguishers | SCUBA knives |
| Flare pistols | Sabers |
| Golf clubs | Screwdrivers |
| Gun lighters | Shot guns |
| Gunpowder | Ski poles |
| Hammers | Spear guns |
| Hand grenades | Starter pistols |
| Hatchets | Straight razors |
| Hockey sticks | Stun guns/shocking devices |
| Hunting knives | Swords |
| Ice axe/ice pick | Tear gas |
| Knives (any length) | Throwing stars |
| Kubaton | Toy transformer robots |
| Large, heavy tools | (this toy forms a toy gun) |
| (such as wrenches, pliers, etc.) | Toy weapons |

There are no provisions for returning banned items left at security checkpoints. Those who attempt to bring banned items through the checkpoints are subject to civil penalties of up to \$1,100 per violation, in addition to criminal penalties.

Source: Transportation Security Administration



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Murder on the VISA EXPRESS

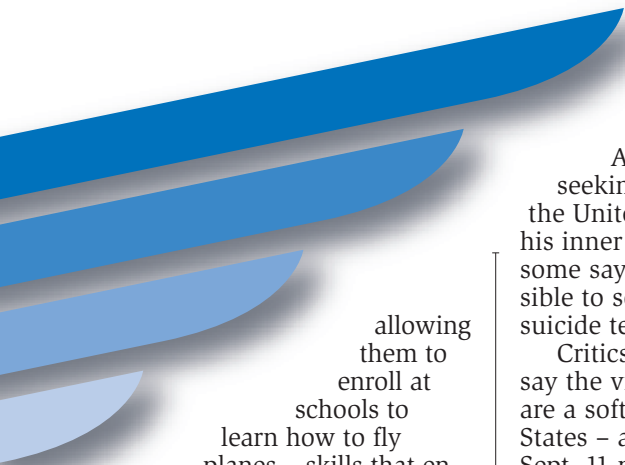
*Soft entry policies made
America an easy target.*

BY BEN BARBER

The 19 Arab hijackers who crashed planes into the World Trade Center and Pentagon did not need to sneak into the United States. They needed neither rubber boats by night nor forged papers at entry points. They simply obtained valid U.S. visas at American consulates abroad.

Three of them, taking advantage of a swift visa-processing system known as Visa Express in wealthy Saudi Arabia, never even met an American visa official. Instead, Saudi travel agents were allowed by the U.S. missions in Saudi Arabia to file applications on behalf of their clients and obtain visas for them.

Mohammad Atta and Marwan Shehhi, two leaders of the al-Qaida terrorist teams that killed 3,000 people Sept. 11, even got student visas



allowing them to enroll at schools to learn how to fly planes – skills that enabled them to crash the hijacked planes with maximum destructive effect. Atta even was able to leave the United States for trips abroad, during which he met with other al-Qaida terrorists and arranged and planned the attacks. He was able to re-enter the United States without problems.

In the weeks and months after the attacks, the State Department – which hands out visas at its consulates around the world – insisted it followed all procedures and was not responsible for knowing it had allowed Arab terrorists to enter the United States. Asked repeatedly if the department had failed to protect America's citizens from terrorists, officials denied any misstep on their part. In fact, the department's Bureau of Consular Affairs left the Saudi Visa Express system in place, continuing to hand out thousands of visas to people who never even came in to meet a consular official.

All Is Not Well. Officials at the State Department and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, which oversees aliens after they enter the United States, say the 19 Arab terrorists who hijacked four U.S. commercial planes Sept. 11 were deliberately chosen for their mission because

they lacked any previous criminal records that would draw attention to their names during security checks. Unless every Arab or Muslim male seeking to enter or remain in the United States is probed for his inner loyalties and beliefs, some say, it will be all but impossible to screen out determined suicide terrorists.

Critics in Congress, however, say the visa system and the INS are a soft underbelly to the United States – and in the aftermath of Sept. 11 must be tightened up. Consular officials gave the terrorists visas to enter the country, and the INS had no clue what they were up to. In fact, six months after the Sept. 11 attacks, the INS sent to Huffman Aviation in Venice, Fla., new-student visa approvals for Atta and Shehhi – two of the dead hijackers. The INS transferred some employees over the incident, but the event confirmed in some minds that the visa and immigration agencies are incapable of carrying out the basic mission of protecting America from its enemies. INS officials say the visa approvals had been held up for months in a paperwork logjam, but U.S. Rep. Mark Foley, R-Fla., was upset.

“How this wasn't discovered by even a rank-and-file worker is beyond my comprehension,” Foley said. “Anything with Mohammad Atta's name on it should have sent alarm bells blasting.”

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., said “this is living documentation that all is not well with this agency.”

After that kind of criticism, the leaders of both the visa service and INS were removed. The head of the consular service, Mary Ryan, was asked to retire by Secretary of State Colin Powell in July. The head of the INS, James Ziglar, quit in August.

In a major reform, the administration decided to place security officials from the new Department of Homeland Security inside every foreign mission with visa-granting power. These officials will have access to all security and intelligence databases of the CIA and FBI, allowing them to screen visa applicants. The State Department's consular officials will be left with the task of checking non-security issues such as finances and then stamping the visas into the passports of foreigners. Visa Express was abolished following a series of media reports on the system.

Visa Express was created to help “qualified applicants obtain U.S. visas quickly and easily... Applicants will no longer have to take time off from work, no longer have to wait in long lines under the hot sun and in crowded waiting rooms,” according to one official description of the system. It also was a process that made sense for wealthy Saudi Arabia, whose citizens are not coming to America looking for jobs and remain as illegal aliens, as do visitors from lower-income countries.

U.S. Rep. Dave Weldon, R-Fla., testified on Capitol Hill that “we have our priorities out of order here. This isn't a customer-service issue; it's a national-security issue. Visa issuance must be a homeland-security system from top to bottom. That is the only way the secretary (of state) will be able to completely and thoroughly protect our borders – by preventing terrorists from ever making it to the homeland.

“We must change the culture of the way we issue visas. It's no longer sufficient for this process to be entry-level. It's simply too vital to our national security.”

The Enemy Within. Typical of the way the open-door American policy on visas has worked to the advantage of terrorists and those who hate America is the case of Mohammad Ajmal Qadri, head of a virulently anti-American Islamist school in Lahore, Pakistan. When I visited what his business card calls the Khuddamuddin University of

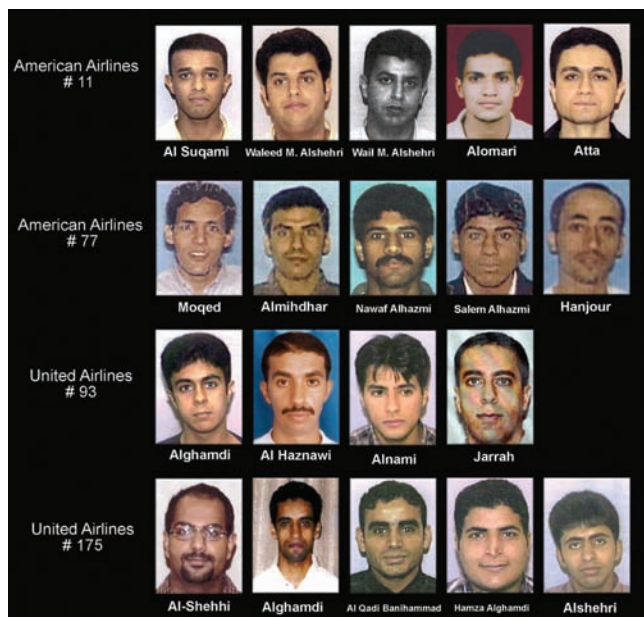
Medical and Social Sciences, I discovered a training school for terrorists – an academy to indoctrinate young, poor Pakistani boys to hate America and prepare for jihad or holy war in Chechnya, Kashmir, Afghanistan, China or anywhere the militant Islamic leaders send them.

Qadri proudly told me that he generated much of the money for his 2,000 students on fund-raising trips to mosques in America. Visa officials, most likely unaware that his “university of medical and social sciences” was really a fanatic madrassa preparing children for terrorism and jihad, allowed him to freely enter the United States dozens of times and to raise money for training children to hate and perhaps one day fight America.

However, the act of screening out people who mean harm to the United States is one that treads closely to the liberties that make America what it is. During the “red-scare” days of the Cold War in the late 1940s and early 1950s, Sen. Joe McCarthy and his followers blacklisted many inside this country from working if they had ever been communists, held communist ideas or even associated with communists. The government also barred many foreigners from obtaining visas if they had ever been communists or associated with them. Gradually, those rules eased. So long as you did not advocate the violent overthrow of the U.S. government, it was possible to get a visa. In the post-Cold War era, thousands of tourists, businessmen, politicians and foreign leaders from the former Soviet bloc would be blacklisted if all former communists were still barred.

The question is how to block militant Islamists who have bad intentions and not deny visas to all Muslims. Must visa officials give lie-detector tests to determine the political views of applicants? Are they to investigate the friends and writings of applicants? The answers to these questions are not yet clear.

Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and Weldon have called for tightening the visa process to prevent terrorists from entering the United



The 19 Arab hijackers who crashed planes into the World Trade Center and Pentagon obtained valid U.S. visas at American consulates abroad. Three never even met American visa officials. *Reuters*

States. In a response to a letter of complaint about visa policy they sent to Powell, State Department Inspector General Clark Kent Ervin responded, “I strongly agree with you that consular operations abroad must be conducted to ensure maximum security of the visa issuance process.” He ordered a survey of all 207 visa-issuing posts worldwide to review procedures for processing non-immigrant visas, with “special emphasis on programs that waive the personal-appearance requirement and that accept applications through travel agencies.”

Forcing all applicants to have a personal interview and training visa officials in forensic psychology would follow the Israeli security systems in place at El Al airlines and Israeli visa counters. Brusque, almost rude Israeli officials probe would-be visitors with a series of overlapping questions such as “Who will you visit?” “Where do they live?” “When did you last see them?” and “Where did you meet them?” They make every effort to break a person’s story, all the time probing for inconsistencies and things that seem illogical or out of place. It’s a far cry from answering computerized questions at U.S. airports asking “Did you pack your own luggage?”

Ervin said that from June 1, 2001 – the date Visa Express was

launched – through Sept. 10, 2001, some 36,018 visas were issued through the speedy new process in Saudi Arabia alone. Of those who applied, 97 percent had no interview.

“All 19 of the Sept. 11 terrorists came to America after obtaining legal visas,” Weldon said. “This is unacceptable. The security of our nation must begin abroad. Visa issuance should not be about speed and service with a smile. This process should be about close and careful examination of each and every visa applicant. Our security depends on it.”

A Growing Community. Weldon and Grassley say the State Department regards the issuance of visas as a diplomacy tool and a cash cow. At least \$500 million in fees are generated per year. They called for shifting visa authority entirely to Homeland Security, a move rejected by key congressional committees that accepted the Bush administration compromise under which Homeland Security officials would have veto power over visas in each consulate. But State – with its expertise in language and local cultures – will issue the actual visas. Together, the two agencies will attempt to blunt any future terrorist attacks.

The Bush administration quietly began to delay the granting of

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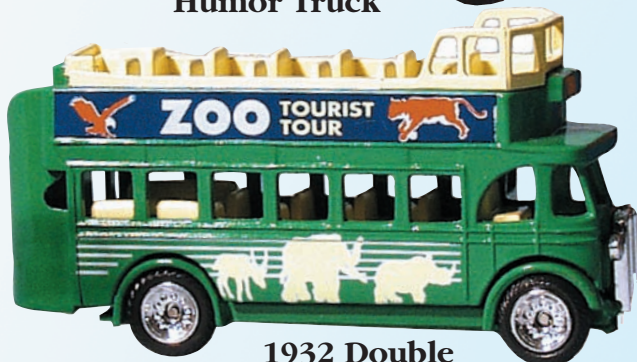


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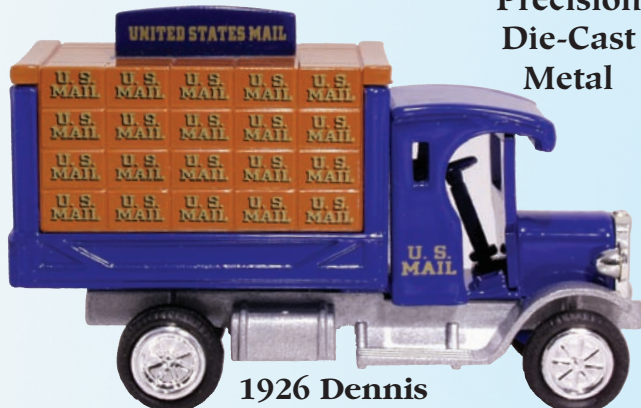
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visas to Muslim men aged 16 to 45 from 26 countries, including Pakistan, last summer. By early September 2002, a backlog of 100,000 visa applications had been held for review by the FBI and CIA, *The New York Times* reported. Many were university students who had gone home for family visits and found they were unable to return to their American colleges. Even those invited on U.S. government programs aimed at building good will in Muslim countries have had visas delayed, sources say.

The INS, another agency that has been criticized for failing to adequately supervise the terrorists of Sept. 11, also has seen big changes. It was revealed that 15 of the 19 hijackers entered the United States legally on travel visas. Three were admitted with business visas, and the 19th entered on a student visa. Ziglar, who had been in office only about a month on Sept. 11, 2001, said most of the hijackers were legally in the country when the attacks occurred.

Ziglar resigned before the first anniversary of the attacks. His shift in focus from improving immigrant services to figuring out how to track foreigners was immediately met with resistance from U.S. universities and other schools. The institutions were cold on a requirement to report to the INS the status of all foreign students enrolled. Schools felt it would turn them into cops rather than educators. Some feared the requirement would drive away foreign students whose tuition payments are significant revenue sources. Nevertheless, Ziglar



No records are kept of who leaves the United States, either for Americans or foreigners. PhotoDisc

promised to have a foreign-student tracking system ready within a year and had proposed regulations for restricting how long foreigners can visit the United States on tourist and business visas.

Free to Go. One quirk in U.S. policy has long been a boon to terrorists and criminals alike: no records have been kept of who leaves this country, either for Americans or foreigners. So if someone enters on a tourist or student visa and overstays that visa, no one knows.

While debate on the future of the INS was still taking place, House legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security called for splitting INS into two pieces: enforcement duties would be absorbed into the new department, while the immigration services would remain under the Justice Department.

INS and visa reforms also will have to cope with the growing Muslim immigrant community in the United States. Estimates run from 3 million to 8 million strong. In what seemed a flashback to some the days when thousands of Japanese-Americans were shipped to camps amid fear over their loyalties, Muslim Americans and their institutions came under attack after Sept. 11. One person – a Sikh man from India – was killed and a few others were injured in isolated attacks. President Bush, in the days immediately after Sept. 11, quickly tried to cool things down by making a prominent, widely televised appearance at the Washington Islamic Center, where many diplomats from the Middle East pray. There, surrounded by prominent Muslim Americans, he stood in front of the mihtrab – prayer niche – and declared Americans of the Muslim faith are not the enemies of the United States.

The spate of attacks on Muslims and on Indians wearing turbans died out within days of his statement. But the detention of hundreds of Muslims on suspicion of links to terrorist groups and the closing of major Muslim charities

“... it is simply not possible to have this level of immigration and protect the country at the same time.”

– Steven A. Camarota
of the Center for Immigration Studies

on charges they fund terrorists have raised serious questions about Muslim institutions, such as schools and mosques, that may be nurturing anti-American, anti-Western, anti-Christian and anti-Semitic sentiment. Steven A. Camarota of the Center for Immigration Studies, a think tank that generally favors imposing more limits on immigration to the United States, said the number of Middle East immigrants – almost all of them Muslim – grew from fewer than 200,000 in 1970 to nearly 1.5 million now. He estimates it will rise to 2.5 million by 2010.

Even if the majority of these immigrants respect U.S. laws, they have sheltered terrorists and provided a base for recruitment – sometimes unwittingly. The visa and INS systems are “completely overwhelmed by the number of people allowed into the country ... it is simply not possible to have this level of immigration and protect the country at the same time,” Camarota concluded in a report titled “The Open Door.”

If calls for reduced entry levels are not heeded, the government will have to carry out far-reaching changes to improve visa-applicant screening, monitoring of immigrants and tourists and keeping track of millions of visitors in order to prevent a repeat of Sept. 11.

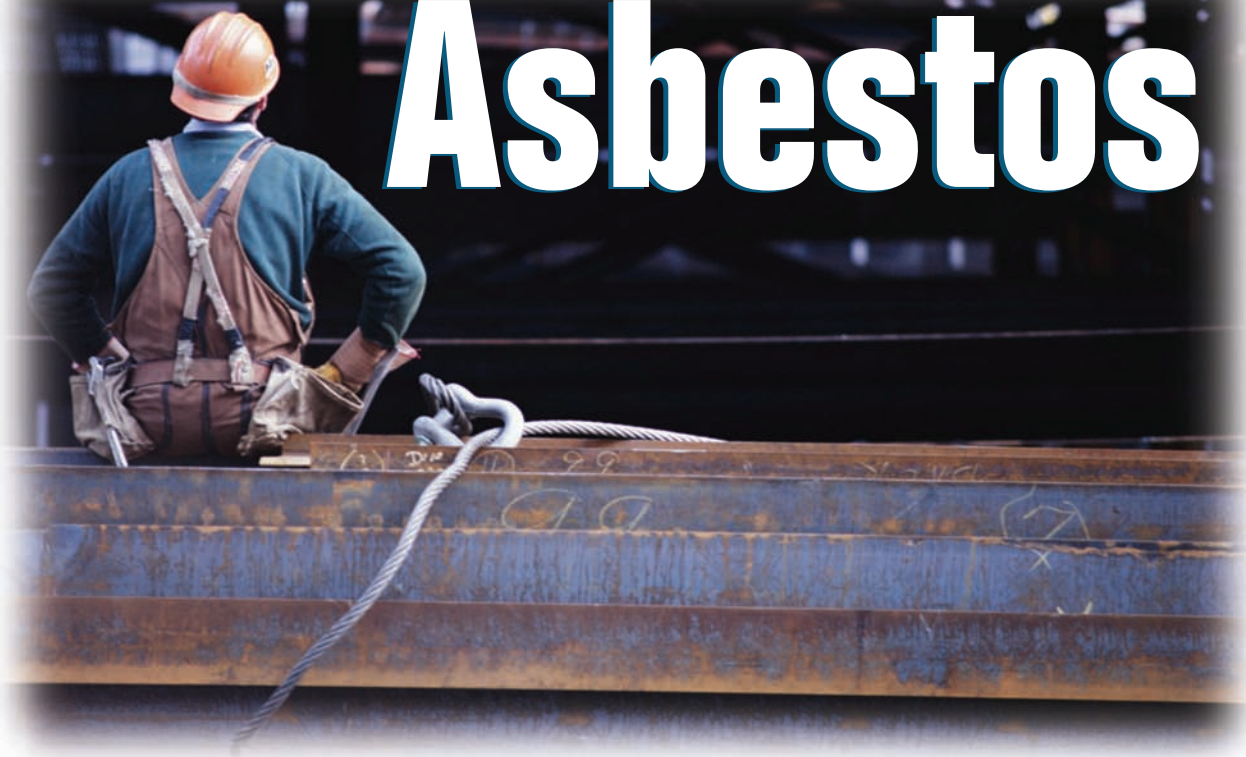
Designing such changes so they do not destroy American liberties nor needlessly stigmatize Muslim visitors and residents is a challenge that will dominate immigration-policy debate for months and perhaps years to come. □

Ben Barber is a reporter for The Washington Times.

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Tip of the Spear

BY JAMES V. CARROLL

Marine Cpl. Peter T. Regan spent 12 straight days clawing through wet concrete, twisted metal and wire in the massive rubble pile that once was the World Trade Center. The stench of death was overwhelming. Covered in gray muck, he scooped and scraped with bare hands, under and around cracks and crevices, searching, in futility, for his father, New York firefighter Donald Regan, who was among the victims buried by the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"I showed up and just dug with my hands through the pile," the corporal said. "A shovel didn't work. It got really frustrating because I was digging with survivors of my father's company, and we'd be digging for so long and find absolutely nothing. It was total misery. Three thousand people were in there, and we couldn't find anyone. Where did everybody go?"

Three years ago, Regan was a civilian on a four-year waiting list to get into FDNY. He dreamed to be a firefighter and hoped to one day qualify for a slot in his dad's elite company.

But in September 2002, he was on a much different mission, prowling the waters of the Arabian Sea, poised to exact justice, along with his fellow Marines and sailors in a three-ship U.S. amphibious ready group. Their position in the war, said Navy Capt. Alan M. Haefner, commodore of the deployment, was the "tip of the spear." Regan would rather be no place else.

"I'm happy I'm on the float, that I'm doing something for a reason – fighting terrorism," he said. "From where I am now, I don't think I'm in a position to topple the terrorists that caused Sept. 11. But if I had the chance, I'd be eager and willing to do everything I could at all costs to kill them."

A Marine Harrier jet performs one of many vertical landing exercises as the USS Belleau Wood makes its way across the Pacific toward the Arabian Sea. *James V. Carroll*



U.S. Marine Corps

"I showed up and just dug with my hands through the pile. A shovel didn't work. It was total misery. Three thousand people were in there, and we couldn't find anyone. Where did everybody go?"

– Marine Cpl. Peter T. Regan, reflecting on the frustration of searching for his missing father at Ground Zero

Into Harm's Way. Before weighing anchor at San Diego last June, Navy and Marine brass billed the six-month cruise a "routine operation." Navy crews aboard the USS *Belleau Wood*, USS *Denver* and USS *Mount Vernon* were joined by the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operation Capable) in one of many joint air, ground and sea operations in response to the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. They were heading to the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea to carry out planned training exercises in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The crews soon discovered that in a time of war, there really is no such thing as a "routine operation."

By summer's end, the Pentagon ordered the USS *Belleau Wood* to stand by off the Horn of Africa. The mission, according to U.S. military and intelligence officials, was to provide a floating base for possible covert "snatch or kill" operations against suspected mid-level al-Qaida fighters thought to be hiding in Yemen. A dozen helicopters were dispatched to the ship to carry a special-operations force to hunt down the fugitive operatives.

In early October, the *Belleau Wood* changed

positions and circled the waters off Yemen. When a small boat exploded nearby and tore a hole into the French tanker *Limburg*, killing one and spilling 90,000 gallons of oil into the Gulf of Aden, U.S. officials believed the attack – so similar to the October 2000 bombing of the USS *Cole* – was carried out by al-Qaida.

Elsewhere in the region, Marine Lance Cpl. Antonio J. Shedd, 20, of Tampa, Fla., was shot and killed in an ambush by two gunmen in Failaka, an island near Kuwait City. Shedd and 1,000 Marines of the 11th MEU aboard the USS *Denver* and USS *Mount Vernon* were conducting war-game exercises on the island when the attack occurred. Lance Cpl. George R. Simpson, 21, of Dayton, Ohio, was wounded in the melee before Marines returned fire and killed the gunmen.

Two days later, three Marines suffered minor injuries in an explosion at another Kuwait training range. A land mine was blamed for the blast.

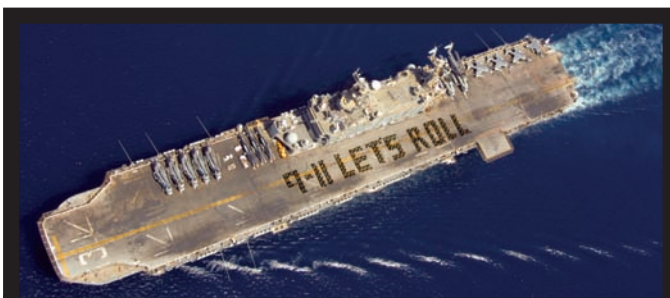
Marines and sailors of Amphibious Squadron FIVE were no longer training for combat. They were in combat. It's what they train to do, where they want to be.

"We have to be ready for whatever is thrown our way," Haefner said. "We take seriously every mission, even if it is considered a routine training operation. We never know what might happen somewhere in the world, so we must be prepared to answer all challenges thrown at us."

In the mission's opening days, as the three ships crossed the Pacific from San Diego to Pearl Harbor – the first port of call – neither Haefner nor anyone aboard the *Belleau Wood* had any idea

what to expect. But adaptability is their primary purpose. It is one reason military insiders call the amphibious Navy and Marine Corps teams America's "911" force, Haefner says. As situations present themselves, the United States can bark – or if need be, bite.

"We can sail any ocean and at the drop of a hat answer a call to



More than 500 Marines and sailors aboard the *Belleau Wood* stand in formation to spell out the "Let's Roll" battle cry in the war on terrorism. Steven L. Cooke, U.S. Navy



Marines study pressure points, knowledge that could save the life of a wounded comrade someday, while waiting for their call to action.

James V. Carroll

action – be it humanitarian relief, hostage rescue, peace operations or armed combat,” Haefner said. “Our mobility is a valuable asset and can instantly become a very potent weapon.”

A Look Inside. The assault ship *Belleau Wood* and her sister ships provide the bark. Combat troops onboard supply the bite. The ships are designed to embark, deploy and support Marine forces by means of helicopters, Harrier jets, landing craft and amphibious vehicles. Their mobility facilitates a swift, in-your-face warning to potential foes. Thoroughly trained in many unique capabilities, the 11th MEU can move with the stealth of a hunting cat or the ferocity of a wolverine.

■ The *Belleau Wood* is the flagship. It can carry a full Marine battalion – along with supplies and equipment needed in an assault – and land them ashore by either helicopter or amphibious craft. The ship is manned by nearly 1,000 Navy personnel. Its full-length flight deck can handle 10 helicopters simultaneously, as well as AV-8 Harrier jump-jet aircraft and the OV-10 Bronco fixed-wing turboprop reconnaissance aircraft.

The *Belleau Wood*, a Tarawa-class amphibious assault ship, has multiple RAM missile stations, a number of 20-mm close-in weapons, .50-caliber and 25-mm mounts, and other self-protection systems. The ship has one of the largest hospitals afloat with 300 beds, four operating rooms and three dental operating stations.

■ The *Denver* is capable of operating troop or cargo helicopters, vertical/short-takeoff-and-landing

fixed-wing aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicles to project assault, special warfare and reconnaissance forces inland. A well-armed Austin-class amphibious transport dock, the *Denver* has a crew of approximately 400. More than 19,000 repair parts are stored onboard for maintenance under way.

■ The *Mount Vernon* is designed to transport and operate heavy landing craft from a large well deck. It is the first ship modified to support air-cushion landing-craft operations, and it can embark, deploy and land elements of a Marine force by helicopter, landing craft or amphibious vehicle. An Anchorage-class dock-landing ship, it is manned by nearly 400 sailors and can carry and deploy more than 300 combat troops.

The 11th MEU (SOC) aboard Amphibious Squadron FIVE is a rapid-response force of approximately 2,200 Marines. They are trained to accomplish numerous operations including airfield seizures, amphibious assaults, disaster relief, humanitarian assistance, hostage rescue, maritime interdiction and protection of shipping, peace operations, sanctions enforcement and security operations, specialized demolition missions and noncombatant evacuation rescues.

The MEU has five distinct mission-specific elements.

The Ground Combat Element is a reinforced infantry battalion approximately 1,200 strong. It consists of a rifle company, weapons company, light armored reconnaissance detachment, TOW missile platoon, amphibious assault vehicle platoon, a surveillance-targeting-and-acquisition platoon, com-

bat engineer platoon, artillery battery and tanks platoon.

The Aviation Combat Element is a reinforced helicopter squadron with approximately 417 personnel, including a Medium Helicopter Squadron that operates the CH-46D Sea Knight, a support and transport helicopter that carries up to 18 troops. A second unit is a Heavy Helicopter Squadron Detachment that operates the CH-53E Super Stallion, an extended range, heavy-lift assault-and-support transport helicopter that carries up to 38 troops. A Light Attack Helicopter Squadron Detachment operates the AH-1W Cobra, a heavily armed assault helicopter providing close air support for the landing force. The detachment also operates the UH-1N “Huey” helicopter as an airborne command-and-control platform. The Attack Squadron Detachment flies the AV-8B Harrier, a heavily armed, vertical-takeoff-and-landing jet that provides close air support for the landing force. Also included in the ACE are the Marine Air Control Group, Marine Aerial Refueler/Transport Squadron and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron Detachment.

Two-hundred seventy-five personnel in the Combat Service Support Element or Marine Expeditionary Unit Service Group provide supply, maintenance, transportation, engineering, medical and dental, disbursing, legal and postal services to the MEU.

The Command Element provides command, control, communications and intelligence necessary for effective planning and execution of operations in a joint and combined environment.

Altogether, the sailors and Marines of this group form a rapid-strike force capable of going into combat anywhere in the world on sudden notice for sustained peri-

Do not send cas

ods. They can instantly become an enemy's worst nightmare.

New Rules of Engagement. No longer are America's warriors expected to fight defined enemies on traditional battlegrounds. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Richard B. Myers calls this "asymmetric warfare."

"Few of our enemies have the ability or the will to fight us face to face," says Marine Col. Anthony M. Haslam, commanding officer, 11th MEU. "They would lose. Our enemies are more likely to attempt to exploit our weaknesses than they are to take us head on. There are no safe havens given these new realities. We must be prepared to take the battle to those who would destroy us."

Asymmetric warfare is prosecuted by a decentralized fighting force capable of rapid deployment anywhere on the globe, Myers says. Today's U.S. military fighting force must be mobile, flexible, cooperative and quick to strike. The sailors and Marines aboard the *Belleau Wood* and her sister ships represent such a force.

There are approximately seven similar ready groups, two or three of which are deployed somewhere at all times. The capability exists to float all seven at once.

The deployments give U.S. forces the opportunity not only to train among themselves but to participate in exercises with allies, Haslam says. More importantly, a U.S. physical presence near potential hotspots permits ready forces to take the battle to the enemy before the enemy can slip into hiding. No longer are combat-ready troops half an ocean away.

"We are in a different time," Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James L. Jones told Marines and sailors assembled on *Belleau Wood*'s flight deck before depart-

ing San Diego. "President Bush has made the point to tell us we are at war. Terrorism represents a cancer in the fabric of our free society around the world. You are the ultimate expression of America's resolve to do something about that."

Day-to-Day Grind. Daily life in an amphibious ready group is not a pleasure cruise. Sailors and Marines are busy morning, noon and night. Early in deployment, emergency drills punctuate hectic duty days. Seasoned sailors help recruits navigate narrow, maze-like passageways to mess halls, duty stations and sleeping quarters. Sailors practice deep-blue refueling. They prepare and arm onboard weapon systems.

In the early days of the deployment, the flight deck of the *Belleau Wood* was rife with aviation operations – helicopters and Harrier jets lifting off and touching down, the air thick with fuel, the roar of engines, the wap-wap-wap of rotors. At dawn, Marines fired automatic rifles and pistols; bullets pierced silhouettes then sank into the Pacific's blue oblivion. Marines rappelled from the backs of helicopters on the flight deck into the hangar bay below. Pepper spray was shot into the faces of Marines who were pummeled as they ran a gauntlet of simulated enemies wielding attack pads and sticks.

Below deck, Marines practiced sticking each other with IV needles – a skill they know can one day save a life. They found pressure points and learned how to stop bleeding. They listened. They

watched. Inattention could mean death down the road. They cleaned their weapons again and again, waiting for the moment to strike.

"This is our job," says Sgt. Joseph Tillema, a Force Recon Marine from Chino Hills, Calif. "Marines train to go to war. That's what we do. Walking around the ship you see Marines everywhere taking care of their weapons, taking care of gear that will keep us alive and kill our enemy. You see people in classes learning their jobs – fighting a war. I feel sorry for our enemies."

Behind the scenes, sailors play the vital role of transporting Marines to war. They do so with professionalism and resolve. There's no room for petty rivalry in a place where everyone matters – cooks, laundry personnel, barbers, clerks, enginemen, radar-men, weathermen, sonar operators, physicians, nurses, dentists and their staffs and hundreds of others. Collectively, they make it possible for Squadron FIVE to be self-sufficient during deployment. Every task is performed with life-or-death intensity because, in fact, that is what this is all about. This is no exercise. This is war, and everyone onboard knows it. □

James V. Carroll is an assistant editor for The American Legion Magazine.

11th MEU Marines 1st Lt. Carrie C. Batson and Sgt. Brian J. Griffin aboard the USS Belleau Wood contributed to the story.

Article design: Holly K. Soria

Marines and sailors take a moment onboard ship to observe the first anniversary of the attacks that sent them halfway around the world. *U.S. Marine Corps*



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The Bravest COWBOY

Getting out of Dodge was no option at Anzio.

BY JOHN RAUGHTER

It was the fall of 1955. The station was CBS. Cameras were focused on Hollywood giant John Wayne. “Good evening. My name’s Wayne. Some of you may have seen me before. I hope so. I’ve been kicking around Hollywood a long time. I’ve made a lot of pictures out here, all kinds. And some of them have been Westerns, and that’s what I’m here to tell you about tonight: a Western. A new television show called ‘Gunsmoke.’ No,

I’m not in it. I wish I were though, because I think it’s the best thing of its kind to come along. And I hope you’ll agree with me. It’s honest. It’s adult. It’s realistic. When I first heard about the show ‘Gunsmoke,’ I knew there was only one man to play in it: James Arness. He’s a young fella and may be new to some of you. But I’ve worked with him, and I predict he’ll be a big star. So you might as well get used to him, like you had to get used to me. And now I’m proud to present my friend, Jim Arness, in ‘Gunsmoke.’”

The Duke was right. Arness would become a star. “Gunsmoke” went on to air nearly 600 episodes over 20 seasons and become





Future actors Peter Graves, left, and James Arness spend time with their father, Rolf Aurness, center, in 1944. James is still sporting a leg cast from his wounding at Anzio. *Arness collection*

“War experience becomes a part of your life. You’re a different person. If I hadn’t had that experience, I don’t think I would have fit into the character on the show as well ...”

– James Arness

the longest-running drama in television history. And it almost didn’t happen. At least not with Arness.

At 6 feet 7 inches, Army Pvt. Arness knew he made an inviting target for Germans as he walked point on Feb. 1, 1944, while on night patrol in Anzio, Italy. Suddenly, he heard voices 50 feet ahead in the pitch-black vineyard. It was too late. He had walked into a German machine-gun nest. He was shot in the leg but still managed to dive over a row of vines. As he lay on the ground, a German grenade exploded near his side, lifting him off the ground. His friend, Jim Rosen – point man in the squad next to him – was killed in the same attack.

“Years later, Jim Rosen’s brother became an assistant director of ‘Gunsmoke,’” Arness, now 79, told *The American Legion Magazine*. “I had no idea who he was when he was hired. It was just an incredible coincidence. When he read an article about my war experience, he asked me if I knew his brother. I told him all about what happened.”

Depth Finder. Arness’ actions on patrol that night earned him a Bronze Star and Purple Heart, but his initial beach landing could just as easily have ended his life if the Germans had been waiting.

“I had a squad leader who was always on my case,” Arness recalls. “When we were on the LCI (Landing Craft, Infantry), he handed me some burlap bags and told me to carry them to the beach, where someone would take them from me. I asked what was in them, and he said, ‘TNT.’ He also told me that I was to be the first one off the boat so they can tell how deep the water was by where it hit me. They figured if I went under, they needed to get closer.”

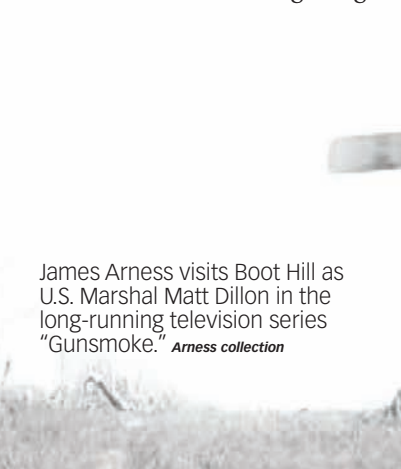
The danger of being a TNT-toting depth finder was not lost on Arness, who dutifully followed orders but wrote about it in his recent book, “James Arness: An Autobiography” (McFarland & Company, Inc.).

“Within seconds after getting

ashore, we realized that we weren’t going to die,” Arness writes. “Not a shot was fired. It was an incredible moment. I’ve never forgotten it – first a feeling of sheer terror, fearing you were going to die as you stepped off the boat. Then there were 15,000 soldiers standing on the beach, all with the same sense of relief. The landing had been completely unopposed.”

The peace was temporary, and when Arness was wounded less than two weeks later it marked the beginning of a year-long recovery in which he would have lost his leg – if not for a new drug called penicillin.

“It hardly seems possible now,” Arness says. “It’s such an intense experience. War experience becomes a part of your life. You’re a different person. If I hadn’t had that experience, I don’t think I would have fit into the character on the show as well. Matt Dillon had a particular aversion to killing people. In a lot of Westerns, the hero would kill someone and blow the smoke off the barrel. But ‘Gunsmoke’ would



James Arness visits Boot Hill as U.S. Marshal Matt Dillon in the long-running television series “Gunsmoke.” *Arness collection*

always cut to Matt Dillon's face, and you could see his revulsion for it."

That wasn't the only characteristic that made U.S. Marshal Matt Dillon different. "Gunsmoke" was different. It was, Arness says, the first television Western written primarily for an adult audience.

"Up until that time, Westerns were mostly kids' shows, 'The Lone Ranger' and 'Hop-a-long Cassidy' for instance," Arness says. "'Gunsmoke' already had some strong scripts because it had been on the radio for many years before TV. We had a great team of writers and a cast that were able to maintain that quality."

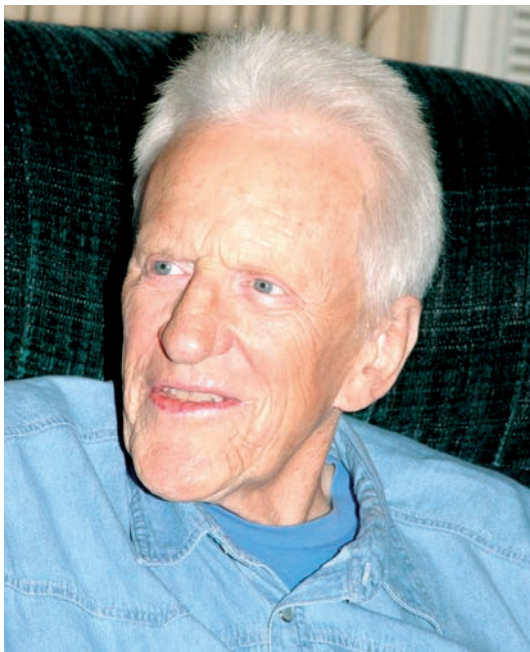
Law Enforcement. Arness' portrayal of Dillon was so popular that the U.S. Marshal Service twice awarded the actor the distinction of "Honorary U.S. Marshal." The only other actor to be similarly honored was Ronald Reagan.

"The Marshal Service asked me to do a recruiting film for them. After portraying a marshal for so long, I figured it was the least I could do. The film wound up winning a prestigious government award," Arness recalls. "My wife, Janet, and I became lifelong friends with some of these marshals. We get letters from people who became law-enforcement officers because of Matt Dillon."

TV Now and Then. Arness isn't a big fan of today's prime-time shows. "They are mostly situation comedies. They do the whole show in a living room, a one-set show. I prefer the news channels. Like that show on MSNBC, 'Curtis and Kuby.' Those two guys are always arguing, and it's great."

Another show that Arness watches – many episodes for the first time – is "Gunsmoke."

"People are surprised to learn that I haven't seen them all. When they aired the first time, I was usually out working on other projects instead of watching TV. Now I catch the reruns on TVLand."



Arness, 79, still enjoys watching "Gunsmoke" reruns. The actor says he has not seen all of the nearly 600 episodes. *Angel C. Arroyo*

Arness nearly turned down the role that made him famous. A director of a film that the actor was working on advised him that it would be a mistake to work in television, a new medium at the time.

"CBS asked me to do a screen test for 'Gunsmoke' and I declined," Arness recalls. "Then John Wayne told me that I would be crazy not to do this. I figured that when Wayne gives you advice, you better take it. Little did I know that I'd be doing it for 20 years."

"Gunsmoke" writers categorized the scripts as "Light Matt," "Medium Matt" and "Heavy Matt." The Light Matt episodes usually consisted of Arness briefly appearing and having another character or guest star carry the show. During the making of these episodes, Arness often spent his time surfing off the California coast.

"After the war, when I moved from Minnesota to California, a friend took me to Santa Monica and showed me how to body surf," Arness says. "I took one look at the guys riding the boards, and it captured me. I surfed until I had a knee operation in the 1980s."

Today, Arness, a member of American Legion Post 273, is one cowboy who simply won't ride off into the sunset. He raises money for various charities and enjoys the fruits of a lucrative career that was nearly stolen by war. He shares his Brentwood home with his wife of 24 years, Janet, and reads fan mail sent to his Web site, www.jamesarness.com.

Arness is surprised at his success. "I never had any real expectation of being an actor," he says.

Indeed, Hollywood was a long way from the Minneapolis home where the Arness family – spelled with a "u" – produced James and his younger brother Peter Graves, the actor who starred in the television series "Mission Impossible."

"I moved to California thinking I could work as an extra and make maybe \$20 a day," Arness says. "I met an agent who took me to a producer who put me in a movie. It turned out to be an Academy Award winner ('The Farmer's Daughter,' 1947) starring Loretta Young. I was being paid \$600 per week, which was big money, but I took it for granted and preferred surfing. It wasn't until I got a part in a play in Pasadena that I started to put more effort into my acting."

The effort paid off, landing Arness parts in four John Wayne films and the starring role in the 1951 horror classic "The Thing." Even after his "Gunsmoke" success, Arness starred in the TV series "How the West Was Won."

"I have always felt guided by a divine hand or providence," Arness says. "I felt that way since Anzio. I am the luckiest guy who ever came through this business. I was always guided to do the right thing even though I was kicking and screaming to get out of it." □

John Raughter is editor of The American Legion Magazine.

Article design: Holly K. Soria

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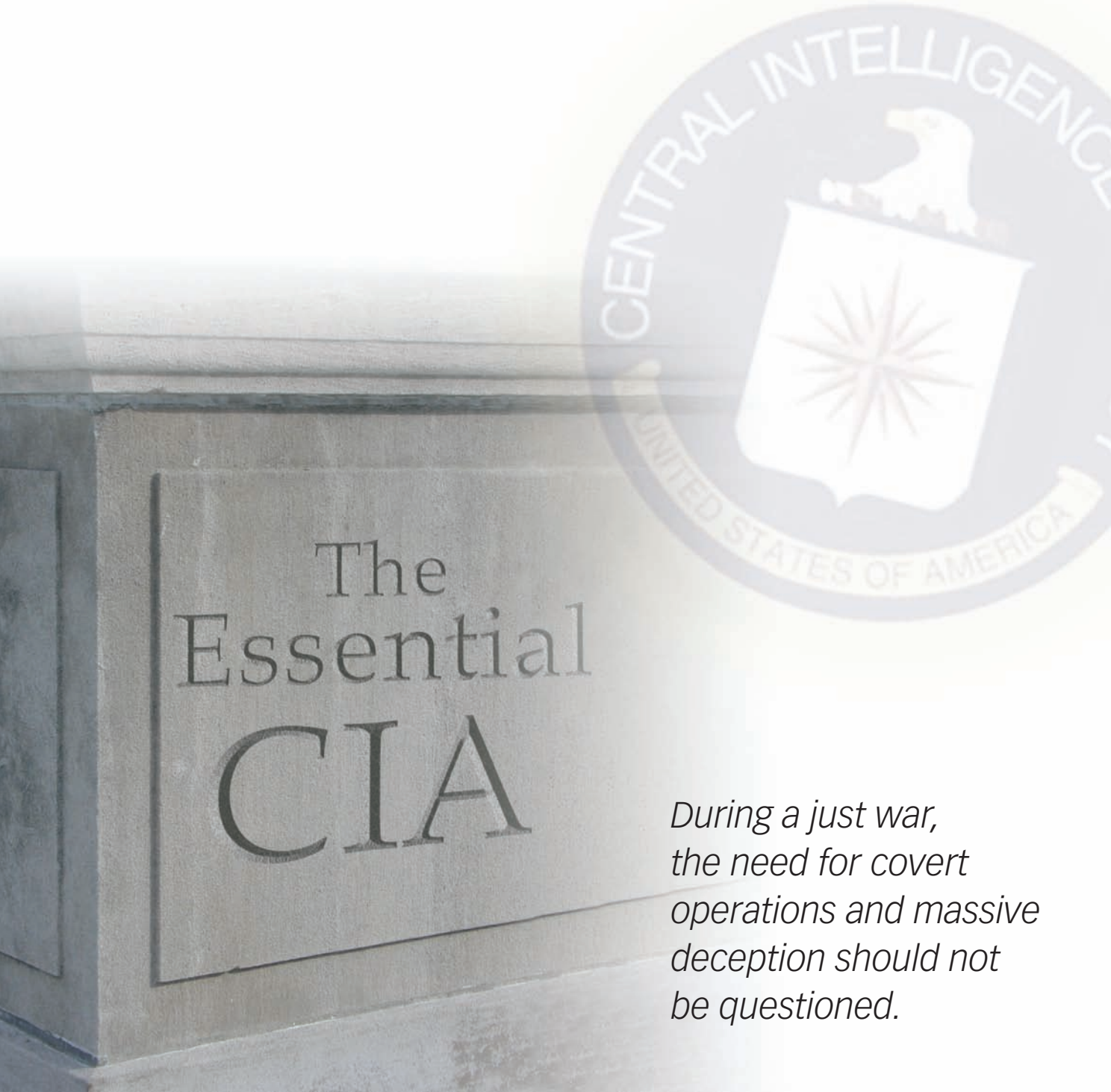
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The Essential CIA

*During a just war,
the need for covert
operations and massive
deception should not
be questioned.*

BY ERNEST W. LEFEVER

Since Sept. 11, Americans have grown more aware of the Central Intelligence Agency's singular contribution to our war against terrorism. In Afghanistan, the CIA has provided vital strategic and tactical information for U.S. and allied troops in their efforts to destroy the elusive and entrenched Taliban and al-Qaida fighters. These fanatical terrorists insist that the deadly assaults on

the World Trade Center and the Pentagon are just punishment for "the Great Satan."

Over the years, most Americans have quietly accepted the need for foreign-intelligence activities by our government, including spying and covert actions. Such activities, in their view, are essential to defend our national security and are compatible with democracy and the American ethic. This view is especially strong among our fighting men and women, who know

firsthand the importance of tactical intelligence. Among intellectuals and the media elite, however, the CIA has all too often been a target of unjustified criticism, even derision. To be sure, covert actions abroad and intelligence-gathering at home pose ethical problems for an open society. It is also a necessary evil that, when properly conducted, is morally defensible as long as the cause is just.

And who would doubt that America's war against terror is just?

Cold-War Dilemmas. Espionage – which T. S.

Eliot aptly called “a wilderness of mirrors” – is as old as history itself. In the Old Testament, we read that Moses sent spies into the land of Canaan to see whether “the cities they dwell in are camps or strongholds” (Numbers 13:17-19). The Cold War was unique because one adversary

was fueled by a crusading ideology while the other was constrained by its democratic polity and humane ethic. Yet Moscow and Washington both employed similar means to advance their interests abroad: persuasion, economic and military aid, espionage and covert actions. Both were engaged in covert activities in the Third World.

Chile is a case in point. Salvador Allende’s Marxist takeover in Santiago became a flashpoint in the Cold War. American critics of the CIA seized upon events there to denounce the agency’s involvement before and after the September 1973 coup that overthrew the Marxist regime. Specifically, they charged the agency with complicity in an assassination to prevent Allende from becoming president after he had won a third of the vote.

The events surrounding the coup that made Gen. Augusto Pinochet leader of the post-Allende junta sparked my interest. So, along with two academic colleagues, I spent 10 days in Santiago in July 1974 to examine the situation. The Nixon administration was seeking to mitigate the junta’s human-rights abuses without reviving the Marxist threat. As realists, we assumed that the CIA and KGB were involved in Chilean affairs and that the CIA made mistakes.

Focusing on events surrounding the coup, we interviewed all sides: American, Chilean, Red Cross and U.N. officials; former president Eduardo Frei; the wife of Ambas-

Who doubts that an Allied victory in World War II, with countless covert operations and massive deception, served a just cause and was morally superior to permitting an Axis victory?

sador Orlando Letelier, who had served in Washington; junta Gen. Gustavo Leigh Guzman; Raul Cardinal Silva Henríquez and many others. The Marxists we talked with claimed the plotters killed Allende, but his personal physician told us exactly how Allende died. Minutes before the soldiers reached the president’s second-story palace office, Allende shot himself in the head.

After spending hours with U.S. Ambassador David Popper and other embassy officials, I concluded that whatever the CIA may have done to scuttle Allende’s election in 1970, it was not involved in the coup that deposed him. I reported my findings at a House subcommittee hearing, to the consternation of several members who saw the agency as a “rogue elephant.”

Seizing on Chile as a prime example of the CIA’s perfidy, critics quickly organized a high-powered “anti-intelligence lobby,” which, according to Ambassador Charles M. Lichenstein, openly sought to “diminish if not abolish existing U.S. capabilities in clandestine collection, counterintelligence and particularly covert operations.” This effort eventually included ACLU activists, renegade CIA officer Philip Agee and former Pentagon consultant Morton Halperin, who provided Agee with classified information for his KGB-assisted book attacking the CIA.

These CIA critics sought to discredit and dismantle what they called “the nation’s vast surveillance network” at home and abroad. They supported the 1974

Hughes-Ryan Amendment, which required the president to inform in advance eight different congressional committees of CIA plans for covert operations. This seriously curtailed sensitive activities abroad. Sen. Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., said the Hughes-Ryan Amendment reflected the bizarre view that America was more threatened by the activities of the U.S. government than by those of Moscow. In 1980, it was replaced by the Intelligence Accountability Act, which required only two committees be informed.

The media also had a field day trouncing the CIA. In an intensive content analysis of ABC, CBS and NBC evening news programs between January 1974 and October 1978, I found only 5 percent of their reporting on intelligence devoted to Soviet-bloc agencies; 95 percent dealt with the CIA. More disturbing, the networks portrayed the CIA as operating in a political and moral vacuum devoid of threats and adversaries, like some villainous Don Quixote tilting at vaporous windmills. Further, the networks cast the CIA in an overwhelmingly negative light; 68.2 percent of stories were unfavorable, while only 13.9 percent were favorable.

Morally Admissible. Throughout the Cold War, I insisted that the “just-war doctrine” is an appropriate guide for assessing CIA activities. Responsible covert operations are essential to our security and freedom because they provide a range of policy options short of open war. Clandestine action inside another state requires secrecy and deception, is usually illegal and sometimes lethal. Yet such activities are morally admissible if they meet the basic just-war criteria: just intention, just and proportional means and a probable just outcome. Who doubts that an Allied victory in World War II – with countless covert operations and massive deception – served a just cause and was morally superior to permitting an Axis victory?

“In wartime,” Churchill wrote, “truth is so precious that she

should always be attended by a bodyguard of lies.”

The just-war argument and common sense did little to convince critics like the late Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, who, in the name of congressional oversight severely restricted covert operations. The emasculation of agency activities reached its apogee under President Carter’s CIA director, Stansfield Turner. In 1977, it was widely reported that Turner fired 400 experts at the CIA and relied on technical intelligence at the expense of human assets. This made it virtually impossible to respond effectively to the Iran hostage crisis the following year. These self-inflicted wounds also contributed to serious U.S. reverses in Angola, Ethiopia, Iran and Afghanistan. Congress and the Carter White House must share the blame for these disasters.

In 1953, when the CIA had a freer hand, it supported a coup that overthrew Prime Minister Mossadegh in Iran and restored the Shah to the Peacock Throne. For the small cost of hiring several hundred Iranians to demonstrate against Mossadegh’s Soviet-backed regime, Washington helped restore a friendly one that helped provide 25 years of stability in the Persian Gulf.

Covert action takes many forms, from the CIA’s provision of newsprint to the only opposition newspaper during Allende’s regime to assisting the Contras in unseating the Soviet-backed Sandinistas in Nicaragua. The most controversial action – the assassination of a national leader – was banned by President Gerald Ford in a mid-1970s executive order that is still in force.

The moral and practical arguments against tyrannicide, which George Bernard Shaw once called “the extreme form of censorship,” are strong but not absolute. Iraq is a perfect example. After Sad-

dam Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1990 and threatened the oil fields in Saudi Arabia, he became an appropriate candidate for justifiable tyrannicide. Such an extreme act was not America’s responsibility, but that of the Iraqi people. Abraham Lincoln asserted the right of any people to overthrow a tyrant by violent means – including, by inference, assassination – can be justified when the tyrant has been in power a long time, when all legal and peaceable means for ousting him have been exhausted, and when the prospects for his early departure are dim. Then his long-suffering people have a right to strike.

At the same time, Lincoln warned that “it is the duty of our government to neither foment nor assist such revolutions in other governments.” Under certain circumstances, Washington would be morally justified in providing technical assistance to citizens seeking to remove their own tyrant.

But one cannot rule out more direct means.

No Comparison. In September 1991, two years after the Berlin Wall fell and exactly 44 years after my first visit, I was again in the city. In 1947, I saw Hitler’s empty chancellery office and the spot where his and Eva Braun’s bodies had been doused with gasoline and burned. Berlin, soon to be the capital of a reunited Germany, was again a major actor in world politics.

A German friend and I visited the former Gestapo and Stasi headquarters. The KGB ran Stasi, the East German state security service. Its senior KGB adviser was Vladimir Putin, now Russia’s president.

Inside the large brick Stasi complex, now a ghoulish museum, we saw numerous portraits and busts of Marx and Lenin, but only a few of Stalin. The rows of empty files bore silent witness to the brutality and paranoia that had reigned there. As we left, I noticed four English words spray-painted on the wall: “Piss off, Nazi pigs!”

This cryptic, if inelegant, slogan

symbolized the demonic kinship of the two totalitarian systems, each hellbent on making the world over in its own image. The Gestapo and the KGB were sinister soul brothers. Established by Lenin as the “sword and shield” of the Communist Party, the KGB waged battle against its perceived internal and external enemies. Given the KGB’s sweeping powers of investigation, arrest, interrogation, prosecution and punishment, the Soviet judicial system was little more than an adjunct. A state within a state, the KGB rivaled the power of the Communist Party and the Red Army.

Out of deep moral and political confusion, some American liberals equated the CIA with the KGB, which is like equating Lincoln and Lenin. In his lofty ideological symmetry, British spy novelist John Le Carré was fond of putting the CIA and the KGB in the same moral pod. Of course, both used deception and occasionally violence, but there is a profound difference in intent and consequences. At root, the CIA fought for freedom and democracy. The KGB fought to uphold Soviet tyranny and expansion. The CIA is constrained by the rule of law, while the KGB was often a law unto itself.

Now the Soviet Union and its KGB are gone, but the need for a vigilant CIA remains. Russia still has 6,000 nuclear warheads. Tyrants still brutalize their people, and the totalitarian temptation has not been exorcised. The “axis of evil” is a dangerous reality.

Technology has changed, but evil still threatens. The enduring need for espionage was acknowledged in a parable of Jesus, recorded in Luke 14:31-32: “What king will march to battle against another king, without first sitting down to consider whether with ten thousand men he can face an enemy coming to meet him with twenty thousand?” □

Ernest W. Lefever is founder of the Washington-based Ethics and Public Policy Center and author of “The CIA and the American Ethic.”

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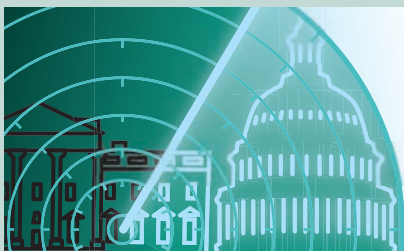
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Special Ops' special role

In what military officials are calling an unprecedented move, the Pentagon is quietly preparing to shift most of the authority for prosecuting the war on terror to the Special Operations Command. The idea behind the switch, reportedly endorsed by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld himself, is to improve the speed and lethality of the global anti-terror campaign.

Based out of MacDill Air Force Base in Florida, the SOC is headed by Gen. Charles Holland. The command oversees Navy SEALs, the Army's Delta Force and sometimes CIA paramilitary assets. Since U.S. military campaigns are generally handled by a regional combat command, depending upon where the war is being fought, Special Operations troops previously have almost always worked under a regional commander.

With SOC forces deployed in Djibouti, Yemen, Jordan, Georgia, Pakistan and the Philippines, Hol-



land is keeping busy. Covert operations reportedly began in Iraq last fall. Washington is hammering out bilateral agreements that would allow SOC troops authority to roam freely in search of terror cells in foreign countries. Pentagon officials hope that Holland's expanded authority will enable

him to move forces into position in a matter of hours rather than days. This change was foreshadowed in Afghanistan, where Holland had a direct link to the White House and was given broad authority over key operations.

Another likely reason for the shift of responsibility is the fact that much of the anti-terror campaign is being waged in Southwest Asia, which falls within the Pentagon's Central Command. The SOC's expanded authority could enable it to continue the fight against al-Qaida, while Gen. Tommy Franks, who heads Central Command, focuses on Iraq.

— A.W.D.



Cpl. Branden P. O'Brien, U.S. Marine Corps

Smallpox vaccines

With the possibility of a biological terror attack increasing, smallpox is a most likely weapon, and federal health officials are pondering whom to vaccinate, when to vaccinate them and how to begin the process.

Some officials advocate mass vaccinations to prevent mass deaths in the event of an attack. Even this group is divided, however, between those who advocate mandatory vaccinations and those who want to make smallpox shots voluntary. Concerned about triggering a panic or causing unnecessary death and injury, others are calling for targeted vaccinations of

health workers and first-responders, starting with the nation's 500,000 emergency-room workers and ultimately including some 10 million emergency personnel.

Virologists estimate that 15 out of every 1 million Americans vaccinated will become seriously ill, and of those 15, two will probably die. Moreover, the American Academy of Pediatrics has warned that available vaccines have not been tested on children.

The irony is that until 1972, most Americans were vaccinated against smallpox. But since routine vaccinations ended with the eradication of the disease, about half the U.S. population is unpro-

tected from the virus, which can be spread through the air and has a 30-percent mortality rate.

Tehran's Kuwait ties

If, as the old military maxim goes, "the enemy of my enemy is my friend," then is the friend of my friend necessarily a friend?

U.S. officials are asking themselves that question in the wake of Kuwait's decision to sign a military cooperation pact with Iran. Thousands of U.S. troops have been stationed in Kuwait since American-led forces liberated the tiny oil-rich country in 1991. With Iran intimately involved in the global terror trade – and cited by President George W. Bush as comprising one-third of the "axis of evil" – U.S.-Iranian relations are certainly not improving.

The Kuwait-Iran accord calls for high-level exchanges, consultation and cooperation on training matters. According to Iranian Defense Minister Ali Shamkhani, the agreement could be the first step toward "an exchange of hardware." It's hard to tell if Tehran plans on using its new Kuwait connection to reach out to the United States or to weaken America's already-shaky system of alliances in the Middle East.

— Alan W. Dowd

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Fifteen upstanding South Paris, Maine, citizens, ages 39 to 79, realized they needed more than a bake sale to raise \$200,000 to save the historic 3.5-acre Bernard McLaughlin public garden from the bulldozer. In a campaign called "Altogether for the Garden," members of the McLaughlin Foundation appear nude for a 2003 calendar with hopes of paying off a \$150,000 mortgage and providing financial security for the future of the 1936-established garden. A few well-placed hoses, shovels, fences and wheelbarrows keep the calendars, which sell for \$15.95 each plus shipping, safe for family consumption.

The models had no regrets about going au naturel for the cause.



"One hundred years from now, when people are still enjoying the garden, whether we got there by being in the altogether would be irrelevant," the foundation's treasurer told *The Boston Globe*.

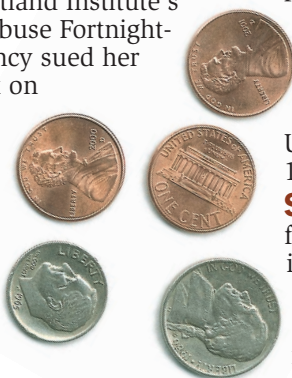
REALLY, THIS WON'T HURT A BIT

Just when you thought all the uses for duct tape had been chronicled, indexed and published in cute little books that so often find their way into latrine reading racks, along comes wart removal.

In a study published by the *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*, duct tape was recently spotlighted as a more effective, less painful alternative to the old-fashioned method of freezing warts off with liquid nitrogen. The main drawback is the duct-tape process requires patients to wear the tape over their warts for six days at a time. The tape is removed once a week for scraping with an emery board or pumice stone and then reapplied. Within two months, according to the report, the warts went away for 85 percent of patients.

THE 18-CENT SUIT

A Seattle woman who accidentally bounced a \$15 check was sent a letter from a collection agency demanding the \$15, plus \$40 in fees, which she promptly paid with a money order. A few months later, according to The Heartland Institute's newsletter "Lawsuit Abuse Fortnightly," the collection agency sued her for 18 cents in interest on the \$15, plus \$311 in legal fees. She retaliated, and a district court judge threw the collection agency's case out of court, penalizing it \$500 in damages, plus the woman's legal fees, which totaled \$7,600.



CONGRESS VS. THE REST OF US

\$3,000 Annual salary for a member of Congress in 1855

\$3,007 Average annual U.S. per-capita income in 1969

\$10,000 Annual salary for a member of Congress in 1935

\$10,328 Average annual U.S. per-capita income in 1984

\$154,700 Annual salary for a member of Congress in 2002

\$22,851 Average annual U.S. per-capita income in 2001

VERBATIM

"Resistance to tyrants is obedience to God."

— THOMAS JEFFERSON

"Everyone 'round here is living in fear ... it's a vicious little thing. I'll never trust squirrels again."

— BLANCHE KELLY

Cheshire, England, resident describing how a rogue squirrel chased residents in the community and bit one toddler.

"Don't raise your hand to a child. It ain't worth it."

— MADELYNE GORMAN TOOGOOD

caught on videotape repeatedly striking her 4-year-old daughter in the back of a sport-utility vehicle.

"There was a point where it got so painful that I was going to reach down and break its neck myself, but I love animals and I realized the bird was in shock and pain."

— JAMIE WING

an Arlington, Wash., woman who was attacked by a red-tailed hawk after she hit it with her pickup. The raptor invaded the cab of her pickup, bit her lip and sank its talons into her right arm until emergency crews came to pry it off. Because it had broken both wings, the hawk had to be destroyed.

"As I analyze it, it came about because at 5 o'clock this morning, I had fewer votes than my opponent."

— FORMER VICE PRESIDENT WALTER MONDALE

when asked by a reporter why he lost his election bid to the U.S. Senate.



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Unsuspected killer

Heart attack, not cancer, is the biggest threat facing women.

BY TARA PARKER-POPE

Most women worry about their husband's heart health. But in reality, their husbands should be worrying about their wives. That's because heart disease is the greatest health threat to women, but most women don't know it.

In surveys, women say they think cancer is a bigger worry. Cancer kills 250,000 women each year, including 44,000 who die of breast cancer. Cardiovascular disease, which leads to stroke and heart attack, kills more than 505,000 women a year. Breast cancer will kill one in 25 women, while one of every two women die from heart disease or stroke.

Even so, women who are vigilant about annual pap smears and mammograms often don't monitor their cholesterol or pay special attention to their heart health.

One reason women are so lax is that heart disease tends to set in around age 55 for women – about 10 years later than it first starts appearing in men. Women's lack of awareness can lead to dire consequences. Women often ignore the pains and discomfort that can warn of a heart attack. By the time they visit the doctor, more damage has been done than if they had sought medical attention at the onset of the attack. And the timing of medical attention can make a big

difference later, even if the woman survives her first heart attack.

One year after a heart attack, 44 percent of women die, compared to 27 percent of men, in part because women wait too long to go to the hospital. Another problem is that the symptoms of heart attack can be different in women than in men, who traditionally experience pain and tightness in the chest, pain in the arms and shoulders, and shortness of breath. While women can experience the same symptoms, often the symptoms are more likely to mimic the flu. The first sign of heart attack in women often is discomfort so low in the chest it's mistaken for stomach pain. Nausea, extreme fatigue and back pain can also be symptoms.

Doctors also are often to blame

for failing to pay attention to a woman's heart-attack risk. While men commonly are given stress tests to gauge heart health, the tests are rarely prescribed for women.

It's never too late for a woman to start taking care of her heart. The first step is to make sure her cholesterol is below 200. The bad cholesterol, or LDL, should be below 129 although 100 or less is ideal. The good cholesterol, or HDL, should be above 40, although 60 or greater can offer extra protection against heart attack.

Women should pay special attention to triglyceride levels, which are a bigger risk factor in women than men. The score should be less than 150. Reducing risk of heart attack is the same for

both sexes. Eat healthful foods, exercise, lose weight, stop smoking, and control diabetes and high blood pressure.

To learn more about cholesterol and risk factors for heart attack, visit the National Institute for Health Web site at www.nih.gov and type in the word "cholesterol" in the search box to follow the cholesterol links. Information may also be obtained by writing the National Institutes of Health, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892 or by calling the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute at (301) 592-8573.

Tara Parker-Pope is an author and health writer for The Wall Street Journal.

Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their personal physicians when they have health problems.



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Matt Opsahl, fire inspection officer for the Jamestown, N.D., Fire Department rings the fire bell as members of the department stand at attention outside the station during a Sept. 11 ceremony.

Courtesy John M. Steiner



A day to remember

It was a day to embrace and cry, comfort and support, remember and cherish. On the first anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Americans gathered across the country to demonstrate their patriotism and resolve. American Legion posts and departments sponsored or assisted with community activities in accordance with Resolution 30, passed at the 2002 Spring Meetings. The events were a huge success.

Activities typically included Patriot Day proclamations, patriotic

music, 21-gun salutes, invocations, Blue Star Banner presentations, the placing of wreaths on memorials and the tolling of bells to commemorate those who died Sept. 11. Crowds ranging from the hundreds to the thousands listened to speeches by government officials, emergency-services personnel, military personnel and veterans, including Legionnaires. In several communities, past national commanders from The American Legion were featured speakers. Legion color guards proudly carried Old Glory and POW/MIA flags before parade crowds.

Different communities offered their own unique spins, including Legion-sponsored essay contests, candlelight ceremonies, presentation of the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall memorial, a fund-raising Heart Walk honoring hometown heroes and the placement of white crosses signifying wars in American history. Elementary students in one community stood before a crowd and recited the Pledge of Allegiance using American Sign Language.



American Legion color guards across the nation proudly represented veterans of all wars as did these Legionnaires from Greeley, Neb. *Courtesy The Wolbach Messenger*



Elementary children feel the texture of the names as they get a closer look at the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall in Jamestown, N.D. The Kids Voting Campaign followed the Patriot Day Ceremony. *Courtesy John M. Steiner*

Several crowds witnessed military flyovers. In one community, a P-51D Mustang soared overhead at 300 mph, while the master of ceremonies explained the fighter's history and how it was used to protect U.S. aircraft bombing Germany in World War II. In another community, the theme of protecting and defending freedom was the message behind a Kids Voting Rally. About 1,500 elementary students attended the rally, wearing red, white and blue, waving U.S. flags and cheering America's freedom to vote.

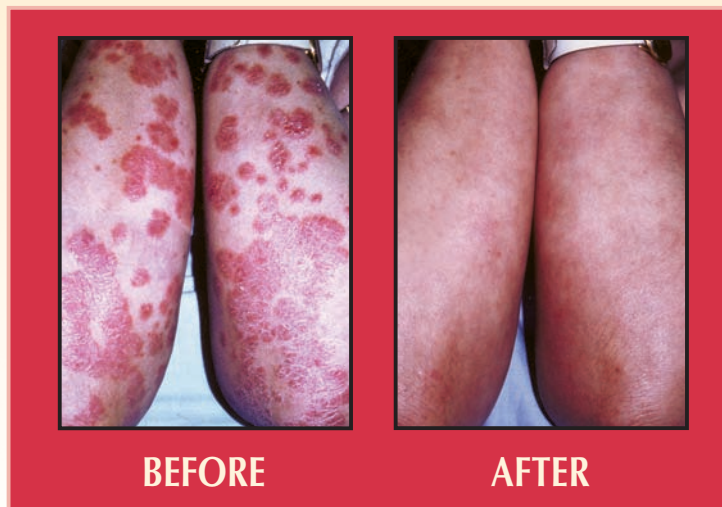
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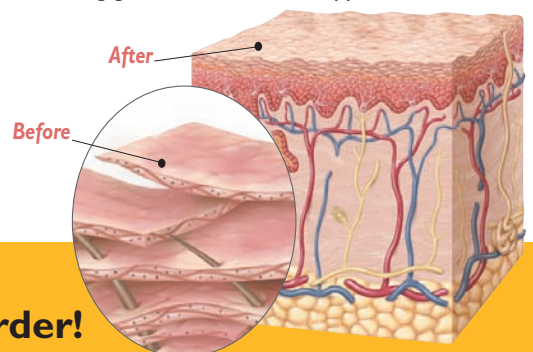
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PNVC Club enters second year

When several American Legion past national vice commanders suggested having a reunion, Harry McDowell of Lehigh Acres, Fla., and Jim Anderson of Cheyenne, Wyo., jumped in to answer the call.

The two men, themselves past national vice commanders – McDowell and Anderson both served from 1990 to 1991 – contacted other vice commanders and scheduled the first reunion to coincide with the 2001 American Legion National Convention in San Antonio. Seventy Legionnaires became charter members that year and decided the club would meet annually at the national convention. The only eligibility requirement is that members must have served as an American Legion national vice commander.

Three board members – Fred Anderson of Reno, Nev.; John Tipping of Hicksville, N.Y.; and Allen Titus of Rockport, Ind. – serve as the club's governing body. They keep members updated through newsletters.

The \$20 annual dues finance



American Legion past national vice commanders conducted their second reunion during the 2002 National Convention in Charlotte, N.C. Photo courtesy of Jim Anderson

the reunions and cover newsletter expenses.

New membership recruits receive letters of invitation as soon as they leave office.

The Past National Vice Commanders Club, now with a membership of 63, conducted its second reunion at the 2002 National Convention in Charlotte, N.C.

"Some of our vice commanders served as far back as the 1950s,"

Jim Anderson said. "And since the Legion elects five new vice commanders each year, it would be literally impossible to keep in touch if it weren't for our reunions. The club serves as a source of camaraderie for us. It helps us renew old friendships and gain new ones. The club's sole purpose is to have fun, but it's also an opportunity for us to meet officers we haven't met before."

Legion offers help to DoD transition personnel

When the Department of Defense began organizing a transition-assistance seminar, American Legion College graduate David Dubois knew he wanted the world's largest veterans organization involved.

Dubois, manager and principal policy adviser for the Navy's Transition Assistance Management Program, said the recent New Orleans conference helped familiarize military members with The American Legion.

"For the first time, all of the DoD transition programs came together, and we were able to introduce transition managers to the tremendous resources offered by veterans service organizations," said Dubois, a member of Covington, Tenn., Post 67. The transition-assistance managers help soon-to-be-discharged servicemembers with job training and employment opportunities.

Paul Loftis, the Legion's assistant internal affairs and membership director, told the Navy and Marine Corps transition-assistance managers "we have more than 15,000 Legion posts full of veterans who have made transitions themselves. When servicemembers leave your office, they are just starting the transition. When they need additional help and resources, The American Legion is there to provide it. We have scholarship programs, the Family Support Network, service officers and many programs to help veterans."

Dubois pointed out that the Legion provides service to members and nonmembers alike.

One of the Legion's affiliate partners, Transition Assistance Online, also was represented at the conference. G. Roderick Gillette, TAO managing partner, demonstrated and distributed to the military audi-

ence the company's new resumé-writing software.

"If Legion posts refer employers to TAO," Gillette said, "a referral fee will be given to The American Legion Scholarship Fund."

Since many servicemembers join the military upon graduating high school, a significant number of them have no experience preparing resumé or interviewing for jobs. Transition-assistance managers offer training in these areas.

Deputy Assistant Defense Secretary John Molino emphasized the Pentagon's support for exiting military personnel. "It is the position of DoD that our military personnel should enjoy a quality of life at least equal to that of those they defend. Our commitment must not stop at the point of separation. It encompasses our veterans as well."

– John Raughter

PNC Lance nominated to U.S. Court of Appeals

Al Lance, past national commander of The American Legion, 1999-2000, has been nominated for a seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Lance is currently the Idaho attorney general. His term of office ends this month.

"Al Lance is a true veterans advocate," said American Legion National Commander Ronald F. Conley. "When he begins his service, he will join Past National Commander H. F. 'Sparky' Gierke on the federal bench. Judge Gierke sits on the U.S. Court of Military Appeals. This is a testi-



PNC Al Lance

mony to the quality of leaders who have led the nation's largest wartime veterans organization.

"All Legionnaires should be proud to know that not only do we champion veterans benefits, but our past leaders are qualified to sit on the court that reviews final decisions of the Board of Veterans Appeals, most frequently dealing with questions about disability or survivor benefits. It sometimes takes up cases involving education benefits, life insurance, home-loan foreclosure or waiver of indebtedness."

Bush nominated Lance on Sept. 24 to serve a 13-year term on the seven-judge Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Lance's confirmation is still pending.

During his tenure as American Legion national commander, he simultaneously served as Idaho's attorney general.

Lance also served as Idaho state representative for two terms, served on the executive committee of the National Association of Attorneys General and chaired the Conference of Western Attorneys General.

Raised on a family farm near Custar, Ohio, Lance earned a bachelor's degree in English and history from South Dakota State

University and a doctor of jurisprudence degree from the University of Toledo College of Law, where he was a member of the Law Review.

He was recognized by The American Legion Auxiliary with the Humanitarian Award in 2000, by the Idaho Council on Domes-

tic Violence and Victim Assistance with the Public Policy Leadership Award in 2002, by the Conference of Western Attorneys General with the Profile in Courage Award in 2002, and by the University of Toledo College of Law with the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2002.



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Legion membership a family affair

You might say Martinsville, Ind., American Legion Post 230, has its very own “band of brothers.” Nine of its Legion-family members are siblings. Victor, Wilbur, Paul, Lloyd, Lester, Harold, Dean and Dale Sighting are Legionnaires; Francis is a Sons of The American Legion member. The brothers’ combined membership years total 323.

Their parents had 11 children in all, nine boys and two girls. Six brothers served in the Army, two in the Air Force. Six served in Korea, two in World War II. While the children were growing up, the Sightings moved many times, “at least nine or 10 times,” said Lloyd, who is the fifth oldest. “My brothers and I would fix up the place when we moved in,” he said.

“Hard work mingled with Mom’s and Dad’s teachings, and loving care seemingly gave us all a firm foundation that has kept us on the straight and narrow road.”



The Sighting brothers are members of Martinsville, Ind., American Legion Post 230. Front row from left to right are Harold, Dean, Dale and Paul. Back row left to right are Lloyd, Wilbur, Victor and Lester. Their brother Francis, an SAL member, was not present for the photo. *Photo by Elissa Kaupisch*

The siblings have lived all their lives in Morgan County, Ind., with the exception of Dale, who lives in nearby Johnson County. The

men frequently attend Legion activities together.

“We have been, and still are, just one big happy family,” Lloyd said.

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The American Legion is an organization of veterans serving veterans, their families and communities. The Legion serves as the veteran’s voice in Washington, fighting for the benefits and rights of those who served our country in the armed forces.

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For membership information:

The American Legion
Attn: Membership Division
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055

Call toll-free: (800) 433-3318

E-mail: ia@legion.org

Visit the Web site:

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John Kerestan, (317) 630-1321

The American Legion Auxiliary
Membership, (317) 955-3845

Members offered mobile-phone deals

Now in its second year, American Legion Wireless continues to provide members of The American Legion family with comprehensive wireless phone service. Members who purchase a calling plan receive the latest-generation digital cellular phone with a complete accessories package directly at their doors, free of charge.

Developed by The American Legion in coordination with Washington-based wireless company InPhonic, the program offers free wireless products from leading manufacturers such as Nokia, Sony Ericsson and Motorola, along with a choice of major carriers including AT&T Wireless, Cingular, Verizon, T-Mobile, Nextel and others.

The American Legion Wireless online store offers a new feature, Wireless Wizard, that lets mobile-phone users analyze their current

plan with a simple, step-by-step process. Online shoppers can then choose from alternative plans that offer lower monthly rates and/or better features. Calling plans are tailored to consumers’ geographic locations and anticipated calling patterns. Legion members also can select services that allow them to browse sports scores,

catch up on the current news and send e-mail – all through a Legion cellular phone.

The American Legion is the first veterans organization in the world to launch a wireless member-benefits program. Proceeds from the wireless program support many Legion programs, including American Legion Baseball, the National Oratorical Program, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation efforts and ongoing veterans programs.

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Legion seeks to solve mystery of missing pilot

On Jan. 17, 1991, the first night of the Persian Gulf War, U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Michael Scott Speicher took off from the USS *Saratoga* with 40 F-18 Hornets to deliver the first air strike of the war against Iraq. During the attack, Speicher's plane was reportedly hit by enemy fire and disappeared in a fireball over the Baghdad desert. The next day, Speicher was listed as killed in action, the first U.S. casualty of the war. No search was conducted.

During the next few years, however, conflicting reports regarding Speicher arose. His jet wreckage was found, its engines, canopy, ejection seat and a pilot's flight suit still intact. Serial numbers confirm the wreckage is Speicher's plane.

Years later, an Iraqi defector claimed to have driven an American pilot from the crash site to a hospital. And in 2001, Speicher was reclassified as MIA rather than KIA.

The Iraqis have a history of keeping POWs for extended periods of time. More than 500 Kuwaiti soldiers are still being held from the Gulf War, and Iranian pilot Hossein Lashgari was held captive from Sept. 18, 1980, to April 19, 1998.

In response to Speicher's disappearance, The American Legion passed Resolution 125, calling for Congress to fully investigate Speicher's case and for the U.S. government to take all possible steps to ascertain the truth concerning Speicher's fate. The resolution also insists upon his release from captivity or the repatriation of his remains.

Amy Waters Yarsinske, a Naval Reserve intelligence officer and the author of a book about Speicher titled "No One Left Behind," spent eight years interviewing top government and military officials, diplomats, pilots, informers and Iraqi defectors to research her book. Yarsinske questions why the U.S. government doesn't seem eager to get Speicher back. She called the case a "game in play."

"I think (the Iraqis) have him, and I think he is still breathing," Yarsinske said. "And I am not the only one who thinks that."

The U.S. Senate has passed the Persian Gulf POW/MIA Accountability Act (S. 1339), more commonly known as the Speicher Bill. The bill, signed into law (P.L. 107-258) by President Bush last year, provides asylum in America to Middle Easterners who deliver

any living American Gulf War POW/MIA to the United States government.

The American Legion supports this legislation and encourages its members to support legislation seeking the truth about Speicher's whereabouts.



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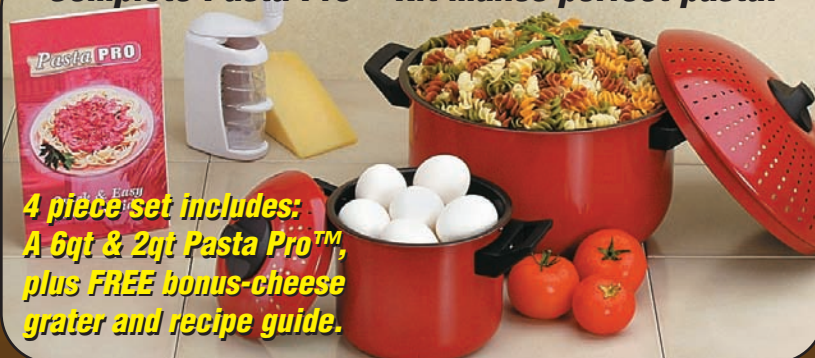


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Vietnam MIAs identified

The remains of three U.S. soldiers previously unaccounted for from the Vietnam War were recently identified and buried as a group at Arlington National Cemetery.

They are Capt. Ronald D. Briggs, Philadelphia; Sgt. 1st Class Robert C. O'Hara, Lost Nation, Iowa; and Maj. David E. Padgett, Washington, Ind.

On Feb. 6, 1969, Padgett and O'Hara were crewmembers on a UH-1H Huey helicopter, flying Briggs and three other soldiers on an emergency re-supply mission in South Vietnam. While en route from a landing zone in the Quang Tri province, the crew radioed that the flight was returning due to poor weather conditions and reduced visibility. When the flight did not return, a search-and-rescue mission was initiated but was unsuccessful in locating the missing aircraft.

In December 1993, a joint U.S. and Vietnamese investigation team, led by the Joint Task Force-Full Accounting, interviewed several local informants in Quang Tri province. One claimed to possess the remains of a missing U.S. serviceman. Two months later, the remains were repatriated to U.S. officials and submitted to the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory Hawaii (CILHI) for analysis.

On July 16, 1995, another joint U.S. and Vietnam team interviewed a witness who gave information about a helicopter crash site in the Huong Hoa District. After investigating the site, the team recovered aircraft debris, personal artifacts and human remains that corresponded to the missing aircraft and its crewmembers. The additional evidence also was transported to CILHI.

From July 1996 to October 1996, additional remains, personal artifacts and aircraft debris were recovered from the crash site. Some of the remains were submitted by CILHI to the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory for mitochondrial DNA analysis. By analyzing dental

records and comparing the DNA of skeletal fragments found at the crash site to that of maternal family members, CILHI scientists were able to identify the missing servicemen. The remains of three others from the same incident were previously identified.

American Legion National Conventions

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Salt Lake City	Aug. 18-24, 2006
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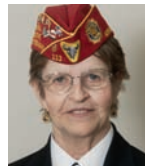
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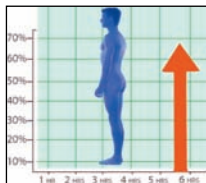
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Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are published free of charge.

Due to the large number of reunions, *The American Legion Magazine* will publish a group's listing only once a year. Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

Other Notices

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Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership. Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**.

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

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6/6-7, Paul Strauser, (817) 485-4261, pstrauser@aceworldcompanies.com; **763d Med Det 1964-1969**, St. Charles, MO, 5/15-18, Jack David, (636) 949-0825, javid@mail.win.org; **862nd Eng Avn Bn 1942-1957**, San Diego, 5/25-29, Sherl Hasler, (812) 384-4666; **Camp Fannin Inf Replacement Tng Center 1943-1946**, Tyler, TX, 4/2-6, Bob Hobkirk, (903) 581-7245, gcason@ix.netcom.com; **Kagnew Station 1947-1974**, Las Vegas, 6/19-22, Gary Love, garylovecia007@hotmail.com

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Anzio Beachhead Vets of WWII, Washington, 3/27-30, David Oglesby, (813) 671-7022; **I Co 3rd Bn 7th Mar**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 4/30-5/3, Dennis E. Deibert, (717) 652-1695; **I Co 3rd Bn 7th Mar**, Palm Desert, CA, 7/9-13, Dennis E. Deibert, (717) 652-1695; **Normandy D-Day ETO Reunion Grp**, Tour, May, Sy Canton, (561) 865-8495; **USS Enterprise, CVAN/CVN 65, Air Wings and Mar Dets**, Elk Grove Village, IL, 7/30-8/3, Herb Hentschel, (815) 942-6586, [morisil@uti.com](mailto:morrisil@uti.com); **USS Mississippi, BB 41/AG 128/CGN 40**, Jackson, MS, 7/31-8/3, Dan Huskisson, (623) 972-7369, dhusky@msn.com; **Vets of Underage Mil Serv**, Hampton, VA, 5/1-5, Robert Davidson, (417) 724-2519, bdavidson1110@earthlink.net

MARINES

1st Bn 7th Mar Korea 1950-1953, Hilton Head, SC, 4/22-27, Ed Orford, (843) 525-0955; **Fox Co 2nd Bn 7th Mar Vietnam**, Fredericksburg, VA, 6/7-14, Barry Smith, (407) 857-6421, f27huns@aol.com; **Tarheel Chapter, NC-1, Women Mar Assn**, Camp Lejeune, NC, 5/5-8, Mary Sabourin, (910) 346-6553, robinl@gibralter.net; **USMC Weather Serv**, Las Vegas, 5/16-18, Don Innis, (321) 724-6600, dinnis@pciol.net

NAVY

USN Cruiser Sailors Assn, Wakefield, MA, 5/21-27, John Amicone, (617) 436-7202, ajja1021@aol.com; **USS Ashland, LSD 1/48**, Newport, RI, June, Paul S. Adams Jr., (302) 834-1806, psadams@delanet.com; **USS Atka, AGB 3**, Pittsburgh, 6/19-21, George M. De Rosa, (201) 664-2682, waytogogm@aol.com; **USS Barnett, APA 5**, Bakersfield, CA, 5/1-3, John E. Kolstad, (661) 831-6038, ibtootzie@aol.com; **USS Belle Grove, LSD 2**, Seattle, 7/6-13, John Tanino, (425) 430-0607, jni559@cs.com

USS Brownson, DD 868, Groton, CT, 4/27-5/1, Paul J. Serabian, (860) 448-0063, brownson2003@worldnet.att.net; **USS Dale, DD 353**, Billings, MT, 5/1-3, Robert "Pat" Olson, (406) 259-2140, patdel@montana.net; **USS Enterprise, CVN 65, Operation Sea Orbit**, Norfolk, VA, 7/30-8/4, Mark Anderson, (847) 360-9331, dmarkhot3@attbi.com;

USS Franklin D. Roosevelt Air Wing, CVB/CVA/CV 42, Hartford, CT, 5/14-18, Michael Garcia, (800) 437-0869; **USS Fulmer, AM 45**, Laughlin, NV, 6/15, Odie Callin, (702) 298-6246, ramadaex@laughlin.net; **USS Harry E. Hubbard, DD 748**, Houston, 4/23-27, Dick Oliver, (727) 527-9448, tewaka@cs.com; **USS Henley, DD 762**, Baton Rouge, LA, 5/15-18, Brian Lenhart, (518) 582-5516, lenhartb@frontiernet.net; **USS Hermitage, LSD 34**, Hudson, OH, 5/15-18, Jim Creek, (352) 259-1449; **USS King, DD 242**, San Diego, 5/6-7, Ralph Wegener, (816) 353-0178, rgwege@aol.com

USS Kiska, AE 35, San Diego, July, Mark Anderson, (847) 360-9331, dmarkhot3@attbi.com; **USS Lloyd Thomas, DD/DDE 764**, Annapolis, MD, May, Robert J. Scherrer, (757) 467-6270, scherrerva@aol.com; **USS Long Island, CVE 1, 1941-1946**, Strongsville, OH, 5/6-10, Paul Slatinsky, (216) 351-1207; **USS LST 570**, Evansville, IN, 7/12, Diana Craft Kennedy, (765) 345-7205, sciobobelle@yahoo.com; **USS Macdonough, DLG 8/DDG 39**, Annapolis, MD, 5/11-14, Larry Wessinger, (803) 364-1778, lew2@bellsouth.net

USS Muliphen, AKA 61, Ocean City, MD, 5/8-11, Ronald L. Waint, (302) 737-1751, rwaint@delanet.com; **USS Nelson, DD 623**, Port Carbon, PA, 5/15-17, Joseph Bobby, (570) 622-9867, ltrebel@gt.rcc.com; **USS Noa, DD 841/DD 343/APD 24**, Fall River-Westport, MA, 4/30-5/3, Wilma Bennett Rascoe, (386) 228-3366; **USS Noble, APA 218**, Sacramento, CA, 5/1-5, Vincent P. Clarke, (717) 774-3172, oilkingvpc@aol.com; **USS Quapaw, ATF 110**, Chicago, 5/15-18, Kenneth Kuhn, (217) 446-8440, kenkuhn2218@yahoo.com

USS Rasher, SS/SSR/AGSS 269, Manitowoc, WI, 6/8-10, Bill Bonesho, (763) 786-1140, wmbones@worldnet.att.net; **USS Skill, MSO 471/AM 115**, Norfolk, VA, 4/3-6, Joseph W. Morton, (215) 822-3484, mortonsannjo@juno.com; **USS Smalley, DD 565**, Arlington Heights, IL, 5/28-6/1, George Bauersfeld, (914) 736-6377, dd565@prodigy.net; **USS Stephen Potter, DD 538**, 5/19-23, George W. Buck, (516) 223-0573, madeline@c-scape.com; **USS Stockton, DD 646**, Biloxi, MS, 5/5-8, Gerald Meyers, (228) 864-0711, vameyers@compuserve.com

USS Toro, SS 422, Reno, NV, 8/31-9/7, Ken Szablewski, (860) 376-5238, toro422@juno.com; **USS Wahoo, SS 565**, St. Marys, GA, 5/1-3, Tom Young, (603) 362-5781, tank@tomandshirley-oung.com; **USS Washburn, AKA 108**, San Diego, 4/24-26, Swede Swensen, (707) 554-8011, elswensen@aol.com; **USS YMS 193**, Laughlin, NV, 6/15, Odie Callin, (702) 298-6246, ramadaex@laughlin.net; **USS Yukatat, AVP 32**, Las Vegas, 5/12-17, Robert E. Phillips, (425) 746-9391; **VJ-3/VU-3/VC-3**, New Orleans, April, Jim Collier, (512) 243-1787, jickcol@earthlink.net; **VP-3**, Pensacola, FL,

1/23-25, Keith W. Harmon, (402) 792-2559, de8e95@aol.com

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Post 30, AZ: Merle Harper, Dutch Phelps, Guy West

Post 47, MI: Dave Boyluyt, Michael Haan, Dimitri Lisquez, Dick Nyland, Larry Reinke, Edward Snell, Donald Sullivan, Tom Witte

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Post 1501, NY: John B. Smith

Post 452, PA: Joseph W. Hoover, John J. Murray

COMRADES IN DISTRESS

188th Abn. James M. Wallace needs to witnesses to verify he injured his back in a jump from an airplane at Fort Campbell, Ky., in March 1953. CID 1445

Flight 3278 3275th HQ. William E. Stuhr needs witnesses to verify he was injured in an automobile accident on Nov. 20, 1954, at Parks AFB, Calif. CID 1446

IN SEARCH OF

1st Bn 7th Mar 1st Mar Div. Anyone who served with Baker Co at Hill 495 near the DMZ in Korea between March 1954 and April 1955, contact John Oltman, 1329 S. 36th St., Omaha, NE 68105, call (402) 344-4975 or e-mail omahadad1@cs.com.

1st Helib AMB Med Dets. Anyone who served under I Corp or 8th Army in Korea between 1951 and 1954, contact Roger Lancaster, 1903 County Road 460, Woodland, AL 36280, call (256) 449-6546 or e-mail roge01@aol.com.

3rd Army 417th Inf 76th Inf Div. Anyone who served during WWII, contact Ralph H. "Pete" Peterson, 557 E. Hackamore, Mesa, AZ 85203, call (480) 890-0095 or e-mail petersonsranch@aol.com.

3rd Mar Recruit Bn S Co Plt 341. Anyone who served at Parris Island between September 1958 and December 1958, contact James B. Clelland, 451 Locust Lane, Troy, OH 45373, call (937) 335-7785 or e-mail clell@erinet.com.

4th Missile Bn 28th Arty. Anyone who served at Fort Sill, Okla., or at Bleidorn Kaserne in Ansbach, Germany, between 1959 and 1963, contact Doug Schlumbohm, 1668 Clover Circle, Melbourne, FL 32935, call (321) 255-1994 or e-mail sindia-homa@aol.com.

7th Sig Bn SHAPE. Anyone who served between 1952 and 1959, contact Bill Andersen at (402) 682-9059 or e-mail shandy442002@yahoo.com.

8th Army 74th Heavy Equip Eng. Anyone who served between 1953 and 1955, contact Elton Hallock, 758 Arch St., Apt. 308, Pittsford, VT 05763 or e-mail ehallock2@adelphia.net.

8th Army "Chicks" Baseball Team. Anyone who played with the 1949 FEC Cmd champion team at Fort Benning, Ga., contact Donald Betz, 336 Boone Lake Circle, Bluff City, TN 37618, call (423) 538-4935 or e-mail dbetz2@chartertn.net.

9th USMC Reserve & Recruiting District. Any Marine who served in the Clark Street Chicago HQ during the 1950s, contact John F. Forgette, 104 S. Garden St., Bellingham, WA 98225 or call (360) 671-5083.

26th Inf "Blue Spaders" Football Team. Anyone who played in Nuremberg, Germany, in 1946, contact David Dunaway, 45 Wes Dillon Road, Tylertown, MS 39667 or call (601) 876-4620.

30th Trans Co AAM. Anyone who served in Hanau,

Germany, Fleogerhorst Kaserne between April 1957 and October 1959, contact Fred Turner Jr., 1306 Jeffers Court, Baltimore, MD 21204, call (410) 832-2851 or e-mail sffmt@comcast.net.

40th Div 224th Rgt H Co. Anyone who served in Korea between 1952 and 1953, contact Ken McDonald, 202 Sunset Ave., Kasson, MN 55944 or e-mail knjrm202@charter.net.

59th Eng Const Co. Any Army personnel who served at Ladd AFB, Alaska, between 1953 and 1956, contact Charles Bettis, 6717 N.W. 128th Terrace, Oklahoma City, OK 73142 or call (405) 722-2780.

78th Cbt Eng Co. Anyone who served at Fort Benning, Ga., in 1951, contact Vern Fullerton at (978) 768-7876.

78th Med Supply Depot. Anyone who served in Leyte

and Japan during WWII, contact Noel Parker, 9016 Bontura Road, Granbury, TX 76049, call (817) 579-5739 or e-mail jenoparker@itexas.net.

85th Aircraft Repair Sqdn. Anyone who served in Erding, Germany, between 1950 and 1955, contact Wayne Mikesell, 3713 Dubac Way, Sacramento, CA 95864, call (916) 488-7459 or e-mail rwmike@jps.net.

101st Abn. Anyone who served in Korea between 1950 and 1952, contact Sidney Goldstein at 5447 Cerritos Ave., Long Beach, CA 90805 or call (562) 428-1304.

108th Mil Intelligence Unit. Anyone who served with Region 1 at the federal building at Federal Square in New York between August 1966 and February 1969, contact Ed Gaffney, 160 Gordon

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137th Inf 35th Div. Anyone who served in the United States and France in 1944, contact Edward Premaza, 5102 W. Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23226 or e-mail jades3123@aol.com.

207th MP Co. Anyone who served in Fiji, Guadalcanal, the Philippines or Kyoto, Japan, between 1942 and 1945, contact W.C. Rohman, 15895 Highway 180 W., Fort Morgan Road, Gulf Shores, AL 36542 or call (251) 968-6037.

223rd QM Salvage & Repair Co (Semi-Mobile). Anyone who served during WWII in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany between May 1943 and November 1945, contact Edward "Red" Mahon, 1809 Cristo Loop, Lillian, AL 36549, call (251) 961-2711 or e-mail emahon@gulfnet.com.

302nd Bomb Grp 357th Bomb Sqdn. Anyone who served with Crew A-5 at Langley Field, Va., between February 1944 and March 1944, contact H.M. "Pat" Patton, 3042 Chama Meadows, Rio Rancho, NM 87144 or call (505) 891-1189.

310th Bomb Wing/310th PMS (SAC). Anyone who served at Smoky Hill AFB in Salina, Kan., between 1953 and 1956, contact Ralph H. "Pete" Peterson, 557 E. Hackamore, Mesa, AZ 85203, call (480) 890-0095 or e-mail petersonsranch@aol.com.

317th Inf 80th Div L Co. Anyone who served in the battle near Greimerath, Germany, in March 1945, contact Connie Groves, 421 Schlaefel Way, Rineyville, KY 40162, call (270) 769-5409 or e-mail billgky25@msn.com.

317th Troop Carrier Grp. Anyone who served in Tachikawa, Japan, between January 1946 and May 1947, contact Richard W. Tauber, 1111 E. Poplar St., Herrin, IL 62948 or call (618) 942-5618.

370th Eng Heavy Equip Co (Freestanding). Anyone who served in 1952 and 1953, contact Delmer Wallen Sr., 817 Morison Ave., Kingsport, TN 37660, call (423) 247-3933 or e-mail wallen@chartertn.net.

394th Inf Rgt 99th Inf Div. Anyone who served during or after WWII, contact Charles A. Gillespie, 5805 Pheasant Ridge Road, Manhattan, KS 66502 or call (785) 539-7857.

508th MP Bn. Anyone who served, contact Richard Jones, P.O. Box 231, Arlington, NE 68002, call (402) 478-4785 or e-mail khwk508@comcast.net.

513th Eng Co (DT). Anyone who served at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and Vietnam between February 1964 and June 1966, contact Larry Bottorff, 2913 Ajax Road, St. Joseph, MO 64503 or call (816) 279-2112.

563rd Pz Bomber Sqdn Det 1. Anyone who served in the armament section in Germany between 1954 and 1957, contact Chuck Hudnall, 1021 Luster Lane, Des Moines, IA 50315, call (515) 285-5982 or e-mail sanhud@mchsi.com.

574th AAA Aw Bn (SP). Anyone who served in the United States or Germany during WWII, contact H. Adao, 1712 San Antonio Lane, Roseville, CA 95747, call (916) 772-3602 or e-mail rg2426@aol.com.

607th AC&W Sqdn. Anyone who served in Korea between November 1952 and November 1953, contact Roger Mazzone, 1490 E. 23rd St., Brooklyn, NY 11210 or call (718) 338-8871.

609th Tank Dest Bn. Anyone who served at Normandy, the Battle of the Bulge or Bastogne during WWII, contact Laurens Jansen, P.O. Box 147, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410, call (201) 791-0134 or e-mail sunkistmarine@webtv.net.

620th Eng Avn Maint Co RAF. Anyone who served at Chelveston, England, between 1953 and 1955, contact D. Costa, Box 593316, Orlando, FL 32859.

644th Tank Dest Bn. Anyone who served between 1941 and 1946, contact Bart Botta, 1004 Great Britain Blvd., Austin, TX 78748, call (512) 280-2141 or e-mail bartbotta@aol.com.

658th FA Bn HQ Btry. Anyone who served in the United States or Europe between 1944 and 1945, contact Stanley Arbeit, 32 Cobblestone Lane,

Buffalo, NY 14221, call (716) 689-0765 or e-mail stanxxx@yahoo.com.

721st AC&W Sqdn. Anyone who served between 1956 and 1960, contact Dwayne Rumney, 3240 Eagle Ridge Drive W., Willmar, MN 56201, call (320) 235-8231 or e-mail rumney@willmar.com.

750th AAA Gun Bn CAC. Anyone who served in Hawaii during WWII, contact Don Barrington Sr., 1000 Eagle Lane, Frazier Park, CA 93225, call (661) 245-3270 or e-mail shirdon@frazmtn.com.

774th Railway Grand Div. Anyone who served in Italy between 1944 and 1946, contact James "Chris" P. Christianson, 1004 S.E. Belmont Drive, Ankeny, IA or call (515) 965-8951.

786th AAA AW Bn. Anyone who served at Fort Bliss, Texas, or Camp Cooke, Calif., between 1943 and 1945, contact Frank Whitt, 909 N. I St., #305, Tacoma, WA 98403 or e-mail fjwhitt@juno.com.

812th MAET Sqdn. Anyone who served in the South Pacific between 1943 and 1945, contact Albert J. Tedaldi, 4694 Luther St., Riverside, CA 92504 or call (909) 682-9412.

820th MP Co. Anyone who served at the U.S. Constabulary in Bamberg, Germany, between March 1946 and April 1947, contact H. Jerry Ellison, 601 Gandy Drive, Hartsville, SC 29550 or call (843) 332-4358.

834th Air Eng Sqdn. Anyone who served in the Army Air Corps in the European, African or Middle East theaters between 1943 and 1945, contact Jim Bamford, 21 Madison St., Methuen, MA 01844 or e-mail methuenbamfords@attbi.com.

1019th Eng Treadway Bridge Co. Anyone who served during WWII, contact Richard Blackey, P.O. Box 315, Largo, FL 33779, call (727) 586-2790 or e-mail rblackey@aol.com.

3119th Sig Serv Bn. Anyone who served on Guadalcanal or Rendova between 1943 and 1945, contact Carl F. Ingram, 22043 N. 2200th St., Chrisman, IL 61924 or call (217) 666-3735.

3198th Sig Serv Bn. Anyone who served in Chanyi Yunan, China, between July 1944 and August 1945, contact William Eng, South Tobaru 1-25-13, Okinawa City T904-0035, Okinawa, Japan.

3650th Basic Mil Tng Wing, Sampson AFB, Romulus, N.Y. Anyone who served as a basic trainee, permanent party personnel, officer or WAF between 1950 and 1955, contact William W. "Bill" Thomas, 100 W. Edward St., Iselin, NJ 08830, call (732) 549-9634 or e-mail wwt1219@aol.com.

A Co HQ Co Personnel Sect 109th/110th Inf Rgt. Anyone who served at Wiltz, Luxembourg, during the Ardennes counteroffensive in December 1944, contact Emery Johnston, 20 Brookside Drive, New London, NH 03257, call (603) 526-7466 or e-mail eegjohnston@adelphia.net.

B Co 472nd Eng Avn Bn. Anyone who served in France between 1953 and 1954, contact Don Parks, 170 Locust Lane, Mason, MI 48854 or call (517) 676-5872.

C Btry 48th AAA AWBn (SP). Anyone who played football in Karlsruhe, Germany, between 1948 and 1949, contact Ernie "Hands" Bright, 221 20th St., Galveston, TX 77550, call (409) 762-0026 or e-mail aosgal1@cs.com.

C Co 1st Bn 16th Inf Rgt 1st Inf Div. Anyone who served at Lai Khe, Vietnam, between May 1966 and June 1967, contact Charles A. Gillespie, 5805 Pheasant Ridge Road, Manhattan, KS 66502 or call (785) 539-7857.

Co 89. Anyone who went through boot camp between January 1955 and April 1955, contact Gerald "Jerry" F. Kervin, P.O. Box 117, Grand Rapids, OH 43522 or call (419) 832-1304.

Eniwetok. Any Army personnel who served during the atom bomb or Greenhouse tests, especially in the Refrigeration Shack or the Taylor Shop, contact James D. Arthur, 144 N. Second St., Hughesville, PA 17737 or call (570) 584-4224.

F Co 120th Inf Rgt 30th Inf Div. Anyone who served in Germany during WWII, contact Thomas Moehlmann, 6685 Bloomdale Road, Bloomdale, OH

44817 or call (419) 655-3344.

F Co 320th Inf Rgt 35th Inf Div. Anyone who served at Camp Rucker, Ala., England or France between 1943 and 1945, contact Thomas H. Branch, Route 3, Box 350, Crewe, VA 23930.

Flight 3536. Anyone who went through basic training at Sampson AFB in Geneva, N.Y., between July 1954 and October 1954, contact John M. Wimmer, R.R. 3, Box 504, Fayetteville, WV 25840 or call (304) 574-1247.

HQ and HQ Btry 3rd Armd Div Arty. Anyone who served in Frankfurt, Germany, between 1956 and 1959, contact Charles Burdette, 7516 Clear Fork Road, Colcord, WV 25048 or call (304) 854-2195.

HQ and HQ Det 8th Log Cmd (Post Sig). Anyone who served in Livorno, Italy, between 1965 and 1966, contact Anthony Bassano, 1496 Almaden Expressway #358, San Jose, CA 95125 or call (408) 574-1247.

MCB 10. Anyone who served as an engineering aide in Vietnam between 1967 and 1970, contact Steve Wagner, 2472 S. Zeno St., Aurora, CO 80013, call (303) 752-9099 or e-mail scwagnerden@attbi.com.

NAF Oppama, Japan. Anyone who served in the boat pool or barging and beaching between 1954 and 1956, contact Leland Alexander, 518 Phillips Drive, Palmetto, GA 30268, call (770) 463-3681 or e-mail nancyalex@mybluelight.com.

NRAO Pearl Harbor, TH. Any Navy personnel who served between September 1954 and February 1956, contact Robert Sheik, R.R. 1 Box 13, Weatherford, OK 75096 or call (580) 343-2463.

Plt 1029. Anyone who served in San Diego in 1942, contact James Cranley, 1202 Redbud Drive, Argyle, TX 76226 or call (940) 464-7735.

SAC Cmd Crew. Anyone assigned to Offutt AFB, Neb., between 1959 and 1998, contact Ted or Doris Boyer, 3405 Bline Ave., Bellevue, NE 68123, call (402) 291-5970 or e-mail casey589@cox.net.

U.S. Navy Cruiser Sailors Assn. Anyone who served aboard as ship's company, Marine detachment, aviation division, flag personnel or midshipmen, contact Ronald J. Maciejowski, 55 Donna Terrace, Taunton, MA 02780, call (508) 824-0789 or e-mail clcanavy@aol.com.

USS APC 21. Anyone who served aboard between commissioning and December 1943, contact Norman Peregoy, 30 Liberty St., Berlin, MD 21811 or e-mail stormin1211@aol.com.

USS Arkansas, BB 33. Anyone who served aboard any of the 45 ships in a convoy crossing the Atlantic between Oct. 8, 1943, and Oct. 17, 1943, contact Betty H. Pennix, 605 Buster St., Coal Hill, AR 72832.

USS Belknap, DLG/CG 26. Anyone who served aboard between 1964 and 1995, contact Frank Gorri at fg6279@hotmail.com.

USS Cepheus, AKA 18. Anyone who served aboard between 1943 and 1946, contact Mike Pitalo, 1737 Tangerine St., Ocean Springs, MS 39564, call (228) 872-0309 or e-mail aka18@fastband.com.

USS Cushing, DD 376. Anyone who survived the sinking at Guadalcanal on Nov. 13, 1942, contact George Stahlman, 1140 Union St., San Diego, CA 92101, call (619) 232-7127 or e-mail stahking@pacbell.net.

USS Davidson, DE 1045. Anyone who served aboard between 1965 and 1987, contact Henry L. Stanfield, 1445 S.E. Kentallan Lane, Port St. Lucie, FL 34952, call (772) 335-7149 or e-mail histanfield@prodigy.net.

USS Deliver, ARS 23. Anyone who served aboard between commissioning and December 1945, contact Norman Peregoy, 30 Liberty St., Berlin, MD 21811 or e-mail stormin1211@aol.com.

USS Donner, LSD 20. Anyone who served aboard between 1945 and 1970, including Army and Marine Corps personnel, contact Tom Nelson, 740 Home Ave., Edwardsville, IL 62025, call (618) 656-0131 or e-mail nellie0131@yahoo.com.

USS George Clymer, APA 27. Anyone who served

aboard between 1943 and 1945, contact William McMahan, 208 S. 6th St., Mount Horeb, WI 53572 or call (608) 437-5479.

USS Joyce, DER 317. Anyone who served aboard between 1954 and 1958, contact Michael Prunty, 1412 Gillespie Ave., Bronx, NY 10461, call (718) 829-6680 or e-mail mikebxaa@aol.com.

USS Lewis Hancock, DD 675. Anyone who served aboard between 1950 and 1958, contact Patsy Iapalucci, 323 W. Third St., Greensburg, PA 15601, call (724) 834-0370 or e-mail iapal@stargate.net.

USS LST 649. Anyone who served aboard between 1944 and 1946, contact Edward Wolfe, 700 Marietta St., Bremen, OH 43107, call (740) 569-7826 or e-mail ewnah@aol.com.

USS LST 656. Anyone who served aboard between March 1944 and November 1944, contact Ed Jean, 70 Marshall St., Nashua, NH 03060, call (603) 889-1452 or e-mail sljeam@peoplepc.com.

USS LST 975. Anyone who served aboard between 1945 and 1954, contact Ray Price, P.O. Box 205, Millersburg, PA 17061 or call (717) 692-2945.

USS LST 1065. Anyone who served aboard between March 1945 and November 1945, contact Ed Jean, 70 Marshall St., Nashua, NH 03060, call (603) 889-1452 or e-mail sljeam@peoplepc.com.

USS LST 1080. Anyone who served aboard in the Comm Div between 1945 and 1946, contact Edward G. Thomas, 212 E. State St., Smithshire, IL 61478 or call (309) 325-7131.

USS LST 1122. Anyone who served aboard between 1946 and 1947, contact Rudy "Poncho" Tonkovich, 56683 Ferry Landing Road, Shadyside, OH 43947 or call (740) 676-6019.

USS Marietta, AN 82. Anyone who served aboard between 1944 and 1946, contact Charlie Morris, P.O. Box 307, Puxico, MO 63960 or call (573) 222-3122.

USS PC 1079. Anyone who served aboard between 1943 and 1945, contact Lyle Thill, 4324 Il Road, Garden, MI 49835 or call (906) 644-2675.

USS PC 464. Anyone who served aboard between 1942 and 1945, contact Calvin G. Walter, 915 Priest St., Jackson, MO 63755.

USS PC 1175. Anyone who served aboard between December 1943 and September 1945, contact Philip D. Donahue, 1271 Washington St., PMB 127, East Weymouth, MA 02189 or call (781) 331-7109.

USS Randolph, CV 15. Anyone who served aboard as a torpedoman during WWII, contact John Hillebrand, P.O. Box 123, Gilliam, MO 65330, call (660) 784-2229 or e-mail jhillebrand@midmo.net.

USS Sequoia, AG 23. Anyone who served aboard the

presidential yacht, contact Jim Ernsberger, 4813 Glenoak Road, Hyattsville, MD 20784, call (301) 322-1782 or e-mail jce@erols.com.

USS Spikefish, SS 404. Anyone who served aboard between 1947 and 1949, contact William Watrous, 1691 Route 12, Gales Ferry, CT, 06335, call (860) 464-9973 or e-mail 22025@aol.com.

USS Steinaker, DD 863. Anyone who served aboard between 1964 and 1970, contact Chuck Harrell at (251) 621-6622 or e-mail chucky5@bellsouth.net.

USS Tuscaloosa, LST 1187. Anyone who served aboard between 1983 and 1987, contact Kevin Marinaro, 59 Lizette St., Garfield, NJ 07026, call (973) 772-0033 or e-mail jkm3709@aol.com.

USS YMS 6. Anyone who served aboard between commissioning and June 1943, contact Norman Peregoy, 30 Liberty St., Berlin, MD 21811 or e-mail stormin1211@aol.com.

USS YMS 6. Anyone who served aboard between 1942 and 1944, contact John L. Kelley, 1715 Lake Harbor Way, Houston, TX 77084, call (281) 829-1712.

VJ-1 (Wearon One). Anyone who served at NAS Agana, Guam, between 1952 and 1954, contact Don Sullivan, 1910 Bonita Drive, Glendale, CA 91208, call (818) 244-5427 or e-mail plasquip@earthlink.net.

TAPS

Charles Albright, Dept. of Mississippi. Nat'l Law & Order Cmte. Memb. 1986-1992 and Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1987-1988.

Charles R. Cagle, Dept. of North Carolina. Nat'l Counter-Subversive Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1955-1958, Alt. Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1958-1960, Nat'l Housing Cmte. Memb. 1961-1962 and 1963-1964, Nat'l Amateur Radio Network Cmte. Memb. 1962-1963, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1963-1965, Nat'l Investments Policy Cmte. Memb. 1965-1968, Nat'l Investments Policy Cmte. Chmn. 1966-1968, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Memb. 1971-1984, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Memb. 1972-1975, Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1975-1990, 1993-1994, 1999-2000 and 2001-2002, Nat'l Merchant Marine Cmte. Consultant 1981-1982, Nat'l American Legion Life Insurance & Trust Cmte. Memb. 1982-1994, Dept. Cmdr. 1988-1989 and Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1995-1998.

John F. Feeney, Dept. of Florida. Nat'l Housing Cmte. Memb. 1961-1965, Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1965-1966, Nat'l Disting-

uished Guests Cmte. Memb. 1965-1968, 1970-1972 and 1974-1975, Dept. Cmdr. 1968-1969, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1968-1969, Alt. Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1970-1974, Nat'l Constitution & By-Laws Cmte. Memb. 1971-1972, Nat'l Resolution Assignment Cmte. Memb. 1972-1974, Nat'l Counter-Subversive Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1972-1974, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1975-1980, Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1983-1986, Nat'l Economic Cmsn. Memb. 1987-1993 and Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1993-2002.

William K. Kreitz, Dept. of California. Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1954-1955, 1956-1957 and 1964-1965, Nat'l Publications Cmsn. Advisory Memb. 1958-1962, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Memb. 1962-1963, Dept. Cmdr. 1963-1964, Nat'l Military Affairs Cmte. Memb. 1965-1966, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1966-1968 and Nat'l Economic Cmsn. Cmte. Memb. 1966-1968.

George R. Little, Dept. of South Dakota. Dept. Cmdr. 1980-1981.

Leonard W. Lover, Dept. of Hawaii. Dept. Cmdr. 1988-1989 and Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1989-1991.

Fred R. Metcalfe Jr., Dept. of Mississippi. Nat'l Law & Order Cmte. Exec. Section Memb. 1955-1957, Dept. Cmdr. 1957-1958, Nat'l Internal Affairs Cmsn. Vice Chmn. 1958-1959, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Memb. 1961-1962, 1963-1968 and 1998-2002, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Memb. 1962-1963, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1966-1969, Nat'l Counter-Subversive Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1969-1970 and 1976-1979, and Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1975-1976.

Harold Young Saunders, Dept. of Kentucky. Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Memb. 1951-1952, Nat'l Veterans Preference Cmte. Memb. 1953-1954, 1959-1960 and 1963-1964, Nat'l Law & Order Cmte. Memb. 1957-1958 and 1964-1965, Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1960-1961, Dept. Cmdr. 1965-1966, Nat'l Legis. Cmsn. 1966-2001, Alt. Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1967-1971, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Memb. 1981-1982 and Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1989-1990, 1993-1994 and 1999-2000.

Kenneth L. Young, Dept. of Kansas. Nat'l Rehab. Cmsn. Memb. 1956-1959, Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Advisory Board Memb. 1966-1967, Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Consultant 1971-1974, Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1971-1976 and Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1979-1989.

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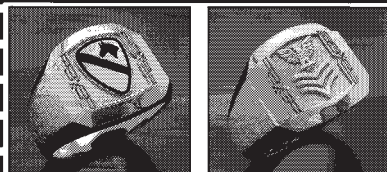
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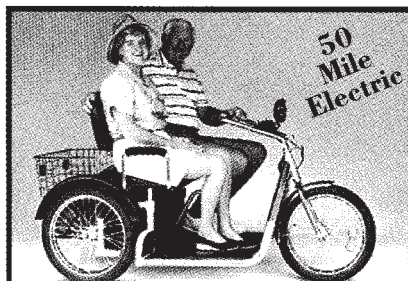
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A JUGGLER, DRIVING to his next performance, is stopped by the police.

"What are those knives doing in your car?" the officer asks.

"I juggle them in my act," the juggler says.

"Oh yeah?" the cop replies. "Let's see you do it." So the juggler starts juggling the knives.

A man driving by sees this and says, "Wow, am I glad I quit drinking. Look at the test they're giving now!"

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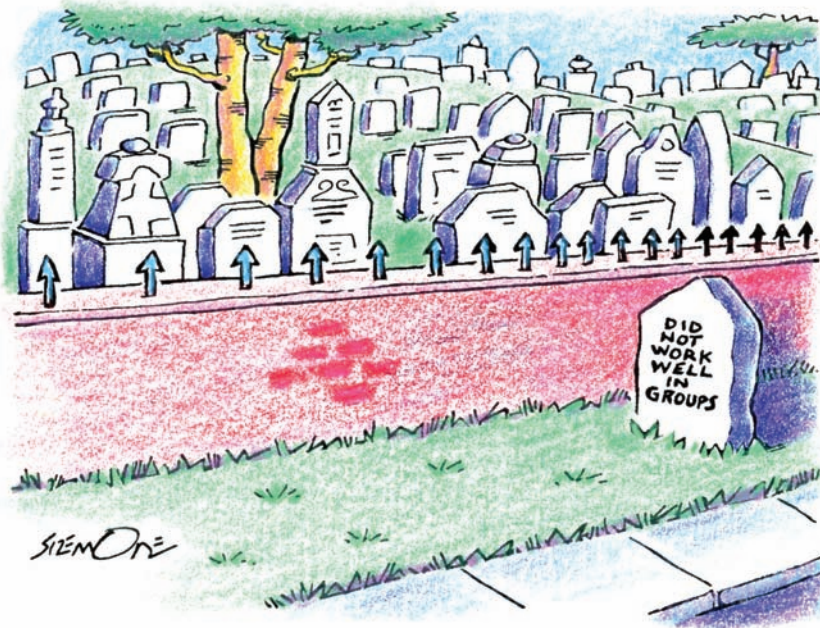
men would enjoy ballet if they could watch it with their shoes off and a six pack of beer. Being able to bet on it wouldn't hurt, either.

A VETERINARIAN AND a taxidermist go into business together. Their sign: "Either way, you'll get your pet back."

A YOUNG BOY went with his dad to see a litter of kittens. On returning home, he breathlessly informed his mother that there were two boy kittens and two girl kittens.

"How did you know?" his mother asked.

"Daddy drilled them up and looked underneath," he replied. "I think it's printed on the bottom."



WHY DID THE CHICKEN CROSS THE ROAD?

■ **Richard M. Nixon:** The chicken did not cross the road. I repeat, the chicken did not cross the road.

■ **Bob Dylan:** How many roads must one chicken cross?

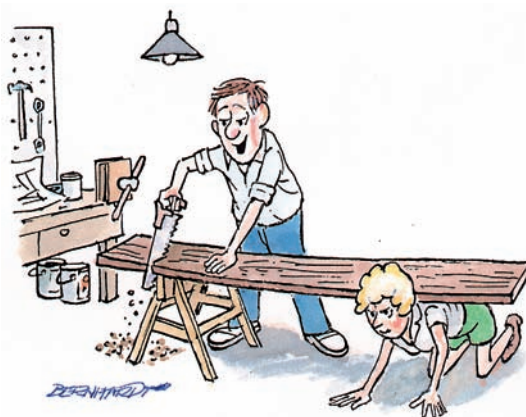
■ **Joseph Stalin:** I don't care. Catch it. Crack its eggs to make my omelet.

■ **Mark Twain:** The news of its crossing has been greatly exaggerated.

■ **Mr. T:** If you saw me coming, you'd cross the road too.

■ **Dr. Seuss:** Did the chicken cross the road? Did he cross it with a toad? Yes! The chicken crossed the road, but why it crossed it, I've not been told.

■ **Robert Frost:** To reach the sidewalk less traveled by.



"Isn't it fun, doing things together?"

■ **Darwin:** It was the logical next step after coming down from the trees.

■ **Grandpa:** In my day, we didn't ask why the chicken crossed the road. Someone told us that the chicken had crossed the road, and that was good enough for us.

A MINISTER AND a congressman arrived at the pearly gates. Saint Peter greeted both of them and gave them their room assignments.

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"This is unfair!" cried the minister.

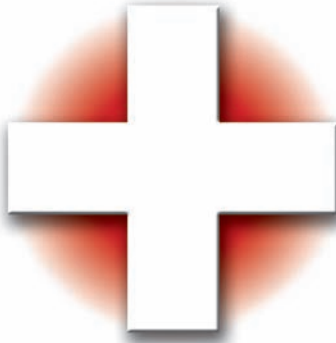
"Listen," Saint Peter said, "ministers are a dime a dozen up here. This is the first congressman we've ever seen."



"I promised myself a cross-country trip when the kids went off to college."

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